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Your essential daily news | THURSDAY MARCH 26, 2015

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Don't trash-talk our Sens

PM's allegiance
Metro reached out to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, but his press people declined to play along, likely because they didn't want people in Ottawa to know he's a Flames fan.

Paul Dewar, NDP MP for Ottawa Centre, shows off his hometown pride by sporting a Senators jersey on Wednesday in front of Parliament Hill. TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

Sens fever hits Parliament Hill, but not all MPs are on board



Trevor Greenway
Metro | Ottawa

Paul Dewar had written the Ottawa Senators off three weeks

ago — like everyone did. But the NDP Ottawa Centre MP loves hamburgers, and how could he not when goalie Andrew (Hamburglar) Hammond has been thieving win after win for the red-hot Senators. It's safe to say Dewar is back on the burger buggy. "I was one of those people, I have to be honest, it was just like, 'Well, maybe next year,' and then it happened," said Dewar Wednesday, donning a Senators jersey in

front of the Parliament building. "And then the Hamburglar came on the stage, swept the west and brought it on home." That run has helped the Senators get into a playoff position for the first time since November — one point up on the Bruins for the final wild card spot in the Easter Conference. Dewar said there has been a lot of "trash talk," on the Hill from MPs in other ridings who still think the Sens impressive

run is just a phase. Some of that "trash talk" is courtesy Liberal MP for Westmount-Ville-Marie Marc Garneau, who was quick to announce he is no Sens fan. "Oh, of course for the Montreal Canadiens, my goodness, let's get things right here," he said when asked where his allegiance lies. "The Sens are having a bit of a streak and I am happy for them, but it will come to an end. Montreal will take care of

them in due course and that's just the way it is." MPs in the west are more on board with the Hamburglar, but it's not surprising that Conservative MP for Edmonton Centre Laurie Hawn is gobbling up the hot streak, as he doesn't have much of a team to cheer for. "You had to bring that up didn't you?" quipped Hawn, looking down. The Oilers have been in the basement of the league for eight straight seasons.

"If the Sens are in it, I will certain cheer for them," he said. NDP Vancouver Kingsway MP Don Davies is loving the Sens' latest run and hopes to see an all-Canadian Stanley Cup final with his Vancouver Canucks. But when push comes to shove, he is a true Canucks fan. "We are more vegetarian in Vancouver," laughed Davies. "That's where my voters are. V stands for voters and V stands for Vancouver."

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CRIME

Suspect sought in Vanier bank robbery

The suspect in a recent Ottawa bank robbery might be easy to spot if he continues to keep his head warm with a San Francisco 49ers tuque.

According to police, the man wore the toque as he robbed a Vanier bank on Montreal Road near Centre Street on Monday at 1:15 p.m.

During the robbery he allegedly produced a note asking for money and had indicated he had a gun, although no gun was seen.

The bank gave him an undisclosed amount of money and he fled the scene on foot heading east on Montreal Road. No injuries were reported.

The suspect is described as a white man, between the ages of 20 and 30, between five-foot-five and five-foot-10 with a slim build. In addition to the tuque, he was wearing a green jacket with dark plaid stripes and a fur collar, a hooded jacket underneath, and sunglasses.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Ottawa Police Robbery Unit at 613-236-1222 ext. 5116.

METRO



The suspect, according to police. CONTRIBUTED

Witness hit Brazeau first, defence lawyer says

COURT

Suspended senator's trial to resume next week



Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

The woman at the centre of the sexual assault trial involving Patrick Brazeau instigated the dispute by hitting him with her clothing and hands in his bedroom, a defence lawyer said in court Wednesday.

On the third day of the suspended senator's criminal trial his lawyer, Gerard Larocque, challenged the complainant's story of how the Feb. 7, 2013 incident started in Brazeau's Gatineau home.

"I'm going to suggest that during the moment Mr. Brazeau was talking on the phone in the bedroom you hit Mr. Brazeau with your hands, with your bra," said Larocque.



Suspended senator Patrick Brazeau is on trial for charges of assault and sexual assault. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"It's completely false," the woman replied through an interpreter. "I did not hit him upstairs."

Larocque suggested Wednesday the reason she acknowledged not having held onto the bra and the shirt the entire

time was because she had actually been hitting him with the bra while she and Brazeau were arguing in the bedroom.

She denied the claim. The woman, who cannot be identified due to a publication ban, told a different story on Monday when she told the court he told her to leave his house without letting her dress.

According to her, he struck her from behind, pushed her down the stairs as she held onto the banister, and sexually assaulted her on the main

floor that morning.

Several photos showing bruises on her arms and legs as well as scratches on her back were entered as evidence in the trial on Monday.

The woman's bra, ripped shirt, and a pair of her jeans missing a button are also part of the Crown prosecutor's evidence.

Brazeau has pleaded not guilty to his charges of sexual assault and assault, which caused him to be booted from the Conservative caucus.

In a second attempt to at-

tack the witness' credibility, Larocque had her admit in court to immigrating to Canada on false documents and claiming refugee status in Montreal seven years ago.

In court Wednesday, she presented passports which contained fabricated names and nationalities before explaining to the judge she obtained the fake documents to escape her home country.

"My life and the lives of my kids were in danger," she testified.

WITH FILES FROM TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

+ TRIAL CONTINUES

The trial was originally scheduled to last three days, however lengthy witness testimony has pushed the

trial into next week. The trial resumes April 2 when the Crown is expected to introduce more witnesses. METRO

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CITY HALL

Councillors push for donation reform

Two new Ottawa councillors are trying to ban corporate and union donations for the next municipal election.

Tobi Nussbaum, who represents Rideau-Rockcliffe, said it's unfair that business owners are allowed to donate twice — as an individual and a corporate entity.

He tabled a motion at council on Wednesday asking Queen's Park to amend the Municipal Elections Act to prohibit corporate and union donations. Michael Qaqish, the Gloucester-South Nepean representative and a fellow newcomer to council, seconded the motion.

"It's really creating a level playing field and ensuring that certain residents don't have two kicks at the can," Nussbaum said.

Although the next election is four years away, Nussbaum said he's carrying out a campaign

+ PRECEDENT

Banning donations
Toronto enacted a similar corporate and union donation ban in 2009.

promise to work on changing the Municipal Elections Act within 100 days of being in office.

But he still needs support of his fellow councillors. If the province goes ahead and amends the legislation, council will still need to enact the bylaw.

Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson has previously said he does not take issue with corporate and union donations.

On Wednesday, a spokesperson confirmed the mayor supports the current provincial law that allows businesses to contribute. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

Police survey gauges public opinion



Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

The public's perception of safety, crime, and police performance are the sort of things the Ottawa Police Service wants to be measured on in a new survey going out this month.

Now through April, the police force will mail out letters to get a random sampling of 16,000 households in the hopes that residents will complete the 2015 Public Survey on Policing Services online.

The online survey will ask residents questions about the level of crime in their neighbourhoods, community priorities, and

+ PUBLIC SAFETY

Measuring performance
Residents who do not receive a survey in the mail can also provide feedback on the OPS website or by mail.

concerns about police services. The information submitted online will be protected by a secure portal, according to police chief Charles Bordeleau.

Feedback from respondents will also help Ottawa police determine priorities for their 2016-2018 business plan.

Results from the last survey conducted in 2012 are available at ottawapolic.ca.



Daria Kark and Carlos Nahas, right, share a laugh, while posing for a photo with a man dressed as a Hamburglar prior to the Senators NHL game against the Boston Bruins on March 19, in Ottawa. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sens Mile reborn to mark playoff chase

NHL

Senators hold final spot as buzz consumes Elgin Street



Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

Elgin Street will again become the Sens Mile as the Ottawa Senators continue their chase for a post-season berth.

Wearing a Senators jersey two days after the team's 5-2 win against the San Jose Sharks, Coun. Rick Chiarelli introduced a motion to re-establish the Sens

Mile along the street with its trademark signs.

The team was 14 points out of the playoffs in early February, but has made a comeback over the last 20 games and goes into Thursday's home game against the New York Rangers holding down the eighth and final playoff spot.

Chiarelli's motion sparked one of the longest debates of the day on Wednesday, with councillors throwing their support behind the motion.

"I hope we don't jinx them," joked Deputy Mayor Bob Monette.

Elgin Street pub owners are already feeling the playoff buzz. They say an early Sens Mile opening will attract more hockey fans sooner.



I hope we don't jinx them.

Deputy Mayor Bob Monette

"I think that having it come a little early at the end of the regular season is extra excitement," said Keith Loiselle, owner of Woody's Urban Pub. "I understand people think it's a little bit jinxed — I don't think so. I think that the support from the city and the fans is needed at all times."

St. Louis Bar and Grill owner Luke Rochefort said hockey fans might be superstitious about the early sign installations, but he still supports the plan.

"If it's going to get more people out and about, how can I complain about that? It's fantastic," he said.

Frank Eyamie, manager of the Fox & Feather Pub & Grill, is expecting the Sens Mile to draw a large patio crowd as the weather turns warmer.

"Especially this year because of the run that they're on," he said.

Of course, the hope is that the taps will flow like they did in 2007 when Ottawa's team made it to the Stanley Cup finals. They lost to Anaheim.

"When they win — not if they're going to win, when they're going to win — it's going to be crazy," said confident Senators fan Sarah Rizk on Elgin Street bustling through to the end of playoffs.

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First Canada opting out

EMPLOYMENT

Jobs of over 400 school bus drivers soon to be in limbo

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

The largest school bus operator in the Ottawa area will be pulling out of the region at the end of the school year, throwing the careers of more than 400 part-time drivers in limbo.

First Student operated over half of the bus routes in previous years, but the provincial government's new procurement system limits the amount of runs that can be held by one company.

"We certainly would continue operating in Ottawa, but it just wasn't financially feasible based on the number of runs that we were offered," said Chris Kemper, a spokesperson for First Student.

The Ottawa Student Transportation Authority, which or-



A school bus is shown reflected in the mirror of another school bus. METRO FILE

ganizes busing for both Ottawa school boards, has divided the routes among nine other transportation companies.

"A lot of us had a hunch, but those of us who depend on the job were hoping they would stick around a lot longer," said a bus driver with the

“
The transition of the business ... is resulting in significant savings.
OSTA GM Vicky Kyriaco

company, who requested his name not be used.

"A lot of kids take the school bus everyday and sometimes a lot of them are used to the same faces. I'm sure a lot of people will be surprised when September rolls around," he said.

"The transition of the business from First Student to the new operators is resulting in significant savings," said Vicky Kyriaco, the transit authority's general manager. She noted that the jobs are still available, but with different operators.

There is no guarantee that drivers will be transitioned, and if they are re-hired by the new companies, they would lose seniority.

"Our prime objective is to hire people who are experienced and have proper licensing. If they currently do the run it would be silly not to hire them on," said Dwayne Ferguson, an operator with Voyageur, a company that secured a large number of runs.

Representatives with OSTA and First Student said they would try to help bus drivers secure employment with the new companies.

Exactly 140 of the drivers were unionized with Unifor. The union is criticizing the government's new procurement system and First Students' characterization of the drivers as seasonal workers.

IN BRIEF

Driver in fatal crash won't face any charges

No charges will be laid in an collision last year that killed 40-year-old cyclist Laurie Strano.

Strano, a mother of two, was participating in the Ride the Rideau cycling event on Sept. 6 when she collided with a dump truck driven by a 29-year-old man in the south Ottawa suburb of Manotick.


She was pronounced dead at the scene.

In a release issued on Wednesday, Ottawa Police said it had closed its file on the investigation and said there would be no charges in the case.

No reason was given in the release on how they came to the decision.

Police do say Dr. Louise McNaughton-Filion, a coroner, will continue to investigate the death.

Dr. McNaughton-Filion's findings will be used to generate recommendations for improving public safety. METRO



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
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CHILDCARE

MP sent back to daycare to talk tabling of new legislation

Pierre Poilievre smiled and chuckled when asked if the timing was political.

The Ottawa MP and cabinet minister held a press conference on Wednesday to announce that legislation would be tabled this week which will see bigger cheques for parents in July, months before an election is expected to be called.

"Not at all. I resent that question very much," he answered. "In reality, because the benefit was just recently changed, it does take some time to set up the system and to add the millions of families who weren't eligible before."

Currently, the Universal Child Care Benefit program includes a \$100 monthly benefit to families with children under the age of six. The program costs the government around \$2.5 billion annually.

The expansion will increase the amount given for children under six to around \$2,000 a year, and families with children aged six through 17 would receive a new \$720 benefit per year, per child.

"We want you to have the choice to do with that money what you choose," said Poilievre.



Pierre Poilievre talks to a staff member at Sandy Hill Child Care on Wednesday. HALEY RITCHIE/FOR METRO

The proposed change was originally announced in October alongside new income splitting legislation.

The new benefits would be doled out retroactively to Jan. 1, 2015 and cheques would be mailed out in July. The fixed date to call a federal election is Oct. 19, although Prime Minister Stephen Harper can choose to

call one before then.

The benefit is applied equally to families of all income levels.

"The middle class in this country works hard to get ahead, but when they do, they lose their benefits, so that's why we've made the childcare benefit universal," Poilievre said.

HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

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


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Death Café host Natalie Fraser, left, and co-founder Kate Durie are set to host the fifth edition of Death Café on April 15. FACEBOOK

Dealing with dying can be a piece of cake

EVENT

Death Café proving to have a niche



Trevor Greenway
Metro | Ottawa

We are all going to die someday, so you may as well eat cake.

That's what organizers of Ottawa's Death Café are saying, as they get ready to host their fifth event that gives those who either fear death or are curious about it a place to discuss the most mysterious aspect of life.

The conversations are sometimes sad and moving, but with

cake, tea and other treats, nobody leaves without feeling a bit better about their world.

"Well, there is alcohol, which helps," laughed 30-year-old Natalie Fraser, one of the hosts for the April 15 Death Café at Raw Sugar.

"It's not uncommon to see someone come and cry because maybe they just lost somebody or maybe they are sick themselves. The conversations can be passionate and exciting and encouraging."

The evening death talks aren't exactly new. They have been running since 2013, but the last two talks have sold out — packed with those from all walks of life who are both afraid and curious about dying.

Fraser said the death talks



We are not here forever, so let's talk about it and let's figure out how to make the best out of this time while we have it.

Natalie Fraser

have helped her deal with losing two teenage friends years ago — and she's committed to helping others get through similar dark times.

"I found that I quickly felt very compassionate for the people at my table and I wanted to talk to them about how to

make the best of the time that's left," added Fraser.

"I have had some deaths that have greatly impacted me and I feel super passionate about making the most of every single second that is left for me, whether it be another 50 years or maybe tomorrow will be my day to go."

But the entire night isn't emceed by the Grim Reaper himself. Halfway through the night, the conversations switch to life and the moods rise from the grave.

Participants start discussing their accomplishments, bucket lists and their hopes for their children.

"It's really positive and it's an important thing for people to talk about," added Fraser.

Campaign aims to give food, not throw it

It is too soon to tell whether the Ottawa Food Bank has seen a spike in donations since the idea that Senators fans should stop wasting food started to spread through social media websites on Tuesday.

However, the response has been positive and fans might celebrate the next Sens win by giving food to those in need — maybe even ground beef for at least \$4 — instead of tossing bur-

gers that no one will be eating.

"We're Sens fans ourselves," said Samantha Ingram, communications co-ordinator at the Ottawa Food Bank. "We understand that people get swept up in the excitement."

According to Ingram, Andrew Hammond himself agrees that this is a good idea. After every win hamburgers rain down on the ice at the Canadian Tire Centre as a tribute to the goalie's

performance and nickname, The Hamburglar.

"I think a great way for people to support the Sens, as well as The Hamburglar, is to go online and make a donation at ottawa-foodbank.ca," said Ingram.

Each dollar donated online can be turned into five dollars' worth of food for the 50,000 Ottawa residents the food bank feeds each month.

NICHOLAS HODGE/FOR METRO

140

The Ottawa Food Bank supports 140 food programs including the Parkdale Food Centre where manager Karen Secord originally made the suggestion.

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Cash to help 'soften the blow' of funding cuts

HOMELESSNESS

Emergency funds buy time for struggling agencies



Lucy Scholey
Metro|Ottawa

Homeless providers struggling under federal funding cuts are getting a last-minute \$50,000 boost from the City of Ottawa.

The Well's day program for women, Centre 507 and the Cornerstone women's shelter are among those organizations that recently learned they would no longer be receiving federal funding after March 31.

City councillors approved Coun. Catherine McKenney's motion to provide funding from the city's unforeseen account for emergencies on Wednesday.

She said it's an attempt to "soften the blow" for homeless services providers that operate day programs.

"The agencies themselves did only get a couple months' notice," she said.

"It's not a lot of time for agencies who operate on a

IN BRIEF

Funding gap

Carrie Diabo, the co-ordinator of Ottawa's drop-in centre, was surprised to hear Ottawa will not qualify for the city's emergency funding. "As of April 1, there's going to be a big, big gap," she said.

shoestring of a budget."

However, only a few homeless services agencies who operate day programs on the city's behalf will be eligible for this emergency funding.

The Ottawa Native Friendship Centre — which is closing its drop-in centre as a result of the federal funding cuts — will not qualify, said McKenney.

The city administers the federal funding and, under a housing-first policy, the criteria for homeless agencies to apply has changed.

The focus is on putting roofs over people's heads. As a result, homeless agencies no longer eligible for the federal funding will lose that money at the end of the month.

Centre 507, a 30-year-old drop-in facility in Centretown, is cutting staff and programs including street outreach and



Centre 507 is being forced to eliminate programs due to funding cuts. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

job training.

The facility will still serve food and host games nights, but with about \$350,000 less in the budget.

Richard LeBlanc, executive director of Centre 507, said he's grateful for any financial help the city can provide.

"It helps buy a little bit more

time," he said.

He's co-ordinating with other day programs to figure out how much of the \$50,000 pool each centre should apply for.

SLAPPS

Wynne defends new bill

Premier Kathleen Wynne says her libel case against two Progressive Conservatives is not the reason her government is making changes to a bill on so-called SLAPPs — strategic lawsuits against public participation.

Wynne filed a \$2-million lawsuit last spring against then-PC leader Tim Hudak and energy critic Lisa MacLeod over comments that Wynne "oversaw and possibly ordered the criminal destruction of documents" related to the \$1.1-billion cancellation of two gas plants prior to the 2011 election.

Media website Canadaland noted Tuesday that a reintroduced Liberal government bill to crack down on SLAPPs, which use the threat of lawsuits to intimidate opponents, no longer contains a provision applying it to lawsuits already before the court.

Wynne's office says the only reasons the change was made was for procedural fairness to people with cases in progress and because debate on the first version of the bill "became clouded by the interests of a few current litigants."

MacLeod said during question period this week that Wynne's lawsuit against her qualifies as a SLAPP, meant to muzzle the opposition. THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ BACKGROUND

Libel case

Wynne said Wednesday that her lawsuit against Hudak and MacLeod is in place because she believes "it's really important to debate the truth," and not only were the allegations they made untrue, they knew they were untrue.

TRANSIT

Uber vs. taxis: Cabbies to adopt mobile payments

The Ottawa taxi industry's latest move against the ride-share Uber app is a new mobile payment system.

Anyone who takes a Blue Line, Capital, Westway and

DJs cab starting mid-summer will be able to pay their fares from their phones, not including the cost of tips.

Uber already has a mobile payment system.


The U.S.-based service and Ottawa's taxi industry each have their own apps by which anyone can hail a cab and track where it is in the city.


The taxi industry's mobile

payment news broke Wednesday, a day before eight Uber drivers are to appear in court on charges of operating a taxi without a license. The allegations have yet to be proven.

Three Uber drivers were also convicted on March 19 for breaking the city's taxi bylaw.

Uber has argued that it is a technology company and not a taxi service. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO





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Plenty of jam with punk group

BACKSTAGE PASS

Ottawa's The Superlative are making music and money



Jen Traplin

Six years ago, Kiel Burwell posted an ad on the Punk Ottawa forums, looking for people to jam with.

It was then that The Superlative was born — a buzzworthy, local rock band with a forward-thinking, DIY attitude.

Aside from the typical cycle of write, record, tour, repeat, the group made the decision early on to seek out publishing deals in an effort to earn some good money and gain widespread publicity.

They eventually teamed up with U.S.-based promotions and distribution company Tinderbox Music, who helped the band get their songs featured on MTV, The Discovery Net-



The Superlative band members JP Lapointe, left, Alex Tait, Charles Lapointe, Kiel Burwell and Zach Lachance. KAMARA MOROZUK

+ TICKETS

All-ages show

Check out The Superlative at Cafe Dekcut for an all-ages show featuring headliners Lions Lions and We Were Sharks on Friday night. Advance tickets are \$13 or \$15 at the door. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at Vertigo Records and ticketscene.ca

work, NASCAR and Fox Sports, among others.

With global record sales dwindling, Burwell said in an interview he and his bandmates immediately recognized the importance of licensing their music.

"In this day and age, some of the biggest artists in the world are making no money off of record sales," he explained, adding only a handful of albums achieved platinum status last year.

"It just shows that it's hard for artists to make a dime doing what they love to do so

it's about finding other ways to do that, that's not going to jeopardize what you're doing musically."

On top of earning some cash through publishing and licensing deals, The Superlative is also smart about cutting out the middleman wherever they can. Their do-it-yourself nature means the band does everything (aside from the album art) themselves, even down to making their own merchandise.

Burwell said, for him, the key to his personal, musical success is to be business savvy without, of course, forgetting the artistic side.

"I don't aim to be a famous rock star — I just really have been passionate about bands and music and records for as long as I can remember. It's been something I've always wanted to include in my life — music is a big part of who I am," he admitted.

"I want to do it until I can't do it anymore and then I want to keep going by helping other bands. I just want to be involved in music in any way that I can."



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Emma Peckford is looking to land a record deal and hoping a new single will turn some heads. CONTRIBUTED

‘It still kind of feels like a dream’

MUSIC

Bluesfest contest winner Emma Peckford set to release song



Trevor Greenway
Metro | Ottawa

When Emma Peckford stepped onto the Ottawa Bluesfest stage for the She's the One competition last year, it was only the second singing contest in which the performer, then 15, had ever competed.

To say the Corner Brook native was surprised she won would be an understatement.

“Even having been selected as a finalist was totally surreal and I was over the moon to be a part of this whole experience,” said Peckford a year after winning the big competition.

Ever since that performance, Peckford's small-town Newfoundland life was transformed over night. She was flown to Los Angeles to record a song with producer Barrett Yeretsian, film a music video and live a week in the life of a Hollywood rock star.

“It still kind of feels like a dream,” she said.

“I come from a pretty small town in Newfoundland and I was getting all this attention from it. People were yelling my name. When I came back

+ COMPETITION

She's the One

Organizers of this year's She's the One are looking for Canada's next rising star. The festival will be accepting submissions shortly for female singers and songwriters 13 to 21 years old.

to school, people I had never spoken to before knew who I was. It really changed things for me.”

What came out of the session is a new song, Just Breathe, Peckford's newest track that will be released Thursday.

But it was so much more than just laying down a vocal track in the studio. Peckford said she got a glimpse of the L.A. scene and she digs it. She said the trip turned her from just a passionate musician into a passionate, professional artist.

“I guess I take it more seriously now,” she said.

“Before, I was just gigging around town a little bit, but now that I have been down to L.A., people take me more seriously. I am so busy now.”

She's gig-busy, but she hasn't scored a big record deal. She's hoping her new tune, mastered at the legendary Sunset Sound Recording Studio, will turn some heads in the music world.

BUSINESS

Ottawa music festivals are scoring big with latest provincial funding grants

Ottawa's music festivals took home a nice chunk of the \$14-million worth of 2014-15 Ontario Music Fund grants announced by Premier Kathleen Wynne on Wednesday.

The grants are meant to support businesses that promote Ontario-based music and artists.

The three-year program, which was started in 2013,

will invest \$45 million into the province's music industry and, according to the Ontario government, has helped create and retain thousands of jobs.

After a week that saw a leaked schedule and hacks of their website, Bluesfest organizers were delighted to see that they will be the recipients of \$320,000 from

the new grants.

They received \$210,000 last year and Aj Suave, director of communications, says the money helps Ontario musicians get a shot to perform at the festival.

“It gives us a little extra in our budget to hire local artists,” said Suave. “It's always good to see the public sector stand up and support

the arts in Ontario.”

The Ottawa Jazz Festival also heard good news on Wednesday as it is receiving \$150,000 and Folk Fest will get \$100,000.

A Tribe Called Red, an Ottawa-based electronic group of aboriginal activists, will receive \$38,000 from the Ontario Music Fund.

NICHOLAS HODGE/FOR METRO

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THE SELF-SURVEILLANCE GENERATION — PART II

The curated teen

Self-editing and the fear of missing out are keeping kids plugged in — and on edge

What does it mean for teens' development when they are constantly glued to social media? One psychologist fears we're raising a generation of anxious, superficial kids. JEFF HARPER/METRO IN HALIFAX



Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Halifax

Marlisa, 17, is standing in her Halifax high school cafeteria with her purse over one shoulder and a binder tucked under her arm. Her eyes are downcast, staring at her phone.

We eventually sit together. "This is my Instagram," she says, proudly.

Most of Marlisa's 28 posts are selfies. Four are posed in front of the same floor-length bedroom mirror. The reflections show her sitting on the side of a bed, with part of a black dress tucked off to the side, exposing the brown skin of her upper thigh.

In every one, her eyes are fixed to the screen, watching herself.

"I want them to see that I'm independent and I don't need anyone to control my life," she tells me.

Experimenting with one's identity has always been a part of adolescence, but today, with the ubiquity of social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, this process is now happening online, where teens are able to curate their image finely.

Teens see this as a good thing. In their paper, called *Will the Real Digital Girl Please Stand Up?* Examining the Gap

Between Policy and Dialogue and Girls' Accounts of their Digital Existence, researchers Jane Bailey and Valerie Steeves cite evidence that girls in particular gravitate toward social media because "it gives them control over their image and self-presentation" and lets them explore the adult world without their parents.

But Larry Borins, a clinical psychologist who works with teens in the Toronto area, believes this culture of self-surveillance that social technologies have created is leading to an increasingly anxious, superficial generation.

Self-editing and anxiety

Borins says the power of platforms such as Facebook and Instagram — which act as windows into people's lives, coupled with complex identity-play and a desire to feel connected to friends that defines adolescence — results in an obsession with self-editing.

"They're experimenting, but not really showing their true identity. They're showing only what they want other people to see of them."

This is supported by Bailey and Steeves' paper, which goes on to explain that more important for girls to be seen online, is not to be seen badly.

That means teens dedicate hours to painstakingly man-

age their online selves in ways Borins finds comparable to the condition of cognitive distortion — symptomatic of depression and anxiety.

He says sufferers are constantly comparing themselves against others, filtering out their positives attributes to only focus on the negatives, which are exaggerated and overblown.

Dopamine and the 'like' generation

Marlisa tells me people criticize the photo of her in the black dress.

"A lot of people said I didn't act my age, like I was acting grown-up. And I didn't take that as offence — I was like, 'OK, well that's a good thing.'"

Scrolling through her photos, another catches my attention: Marlisa standing in front of a change-room mirror wearing a teal bra and underwear.

I ask what she's thinking about when she posts these images.

"How many likes I'll get," she replies. "I care for likes, especially comments. If someone's like, 'Oh my God, you're pretty,' that makes me feel good."

This makes sense to Borins, who says shots of the happy chemical dopamine are released in our brains every time

we receive a like or even an email notification.

And as humans, we are instinctively searching for that next dopamine rush — a new Facebook friend request, a like on Instagram or retweet on Twitter — which is what Borins believes keeps teens constantly checking their phones.

FOMO: Fear of missing out

Esther's eyes widen as she counts the hours she spends on her phone a day.

"Like, 23," the 16-year-old jokes as she swaps glances with her friend Mariam from across the cafeteria table.

Two iPhones rest on the table like centrepieces. Each admits she is addicted; they've been addicted to their phones since Grade 6, in fact. Both struggle to find words when I ask what happens on a day without their phones:

"I feel sick," says Esther.

"I'm so used to having it with me all the time that when I won't have it, I feel just like I'm just missing something," Mariam says. "Like even if I'm not using it, I just feel like I need to have it with me in my pocket, in my hand."

Fear of missing out, Borins

says, is contributing to a youth culture where teens are too self-obsessed to learn empathy or how "to step into someone else's shoes."

"We see (pictures of) people at parties that we haven't gone to and all of sudden there is this tremendous sense of not being included, not being in the community that elevates the sense of missing out," he says.

He explains that overwhelming pressure to keep up with online appearances, not to mention dealing with threats of cyberbullying and harassment, is taking a dangerous toll on teenagers' self-esteem, even causing some to swear off social media all together.

An undocumented future

Borins fears that without some sort of intervention, a generation of self-obsessed teens will only grow up to become "emotionally unavailable" adults.

The culture of instant connectivity threatens to replace real interpersonal skills with those of online or text conversations, he warns, adding that young people are at risk of losing their ability to read social



You don't want to be someone ... people don't know. You want to be someone where everyone knows you and they want to get to know you.

Marlisa, 17, a student at a high school in Halifax



"That project of creating a curated identity is endless."

Matt Johnson, director of education at MediaSmarts, a digital and media literacy group in Canada

39%

A recent survey by MediaSmarts cited that 39 per cent of teens sleep with their phones on so as not to miss out on anything.

cues and handle the conflict.

It is in a teenager's nature to deepen their social relationships by watching and being watched by peers, according to Steeves in her 2012 paper: *Hide and Seek: Surveillance of Young People on the Internet*.

However, she argues that online socializing is rooted in numerous "surveillant properties," such as Facebook "stalking" that allows teens to learn details about their peers without ever having to have a face-to-face conversation with them.

The exact impact these trends will have on a teenager's development remains to be seen, says Borins. He says researchers have no definitive evidence about what the long-term effects of growing up online means for the teenage brain.

For now, all he and millions of parents can do is deal with an anxiety of their own, waiting to see what will happen when a social media-addicted generation of adolescents grows up.

metro ONLINE

Missed Part I? Get caught up online and read how teens today are making their own rules when it comes to online behaviour, at metronews.ca.

U.S. nudged Canada to expand ISIL air campaign, Kenney says

IRAQ MISSION

Expansion would include airstrikes in Syria

The United States made it clear Canada's precision-guided bomb arsenal and expertise would be welcome in Syria, Jason Kenney said Wednesday — a narrow glimmer of clarity in the Harper government's murky reasons for expanding its Middle East campaign to include the war-torn region.

The defence minister would not go so far as to say the Americans asked Canada to expand the scope of its airstrikes outside of Iraq, but did indicate that Washington left the option open for consideration.

"Let me put it this way: We have conversations back and forth and they made it clear that they thought our precision-guided munitions would be helpful," Kenney said.

The U.S. and some of its Arab



The Syrian Embassy sits vacant in Ottawa on Tuesday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

allies — notably Jordan and the United Arab Emirates — are already conducting airstrikes in Syria against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

Britain, France and Australia are also conducting airstrikes, but not in Syria. The Harper gov-

ernment had initially restricted Canadian warplanes to Iraq only, but that changed Tuesday with the introduction of a motion to expand and extend the mission until March 30, 2016.

Kenney, Foreign Affairs Minister Rob Nicholson and Prime

Minister Stephen Harper faced a storm of demands Wednesday to justify the bombing of Syria under international law. In the Commons, Harper leaned on the U.S. argument — made to the United Nations — that Syrian dictator Bashar Assad had

“Once again, the government is pursuing this action on exactly the same legal basis as its allies.”

PM Stephen Harper

lost control of his territory, that ISIL represents a clear imminent threat to its neighbours, and that the Iraqi government specifically asked Washington to take action. Kenney took it a step further, saying he has a legal opinion from the military's judge advocate general justifying the airstrikes under Article 51 of the UN charter.

That provision says a country can take individual or collective self-defence action if a member is under armed attack, but the invocation of that clause is usually followed by an international resolution authorizing force.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

STRIP CLUBS

Sask. premier cites trafficking concerns as reason for about-face

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall says his government is reversing its decision to allow licensed strip clubs because it's concerned about human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

He says he believes it was a mistake to change provincial liquor laws to allow partial stripping in bars.

"If, by this decision, we have inadvertently allowed for even a marginal increase in the chance for human trafficking, it's the wrong decision," Wall said.

Before 2014, Saskatchewan law prevented stripping in venues where alcohol was sold.

Last year, those regulations changed and dancers could strip down to underwear.

Don Verstraeten owns the Codette Hotel near Nipawin, east of Prince Albert, where strip shows have been held since the regulations changed.

"There's no nudity," he said. "You can see more on HBO."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Mounties arrest man they fear would commit terror offence

The RCMP released few details Wednesday in the case of a 20-year-old man from Prince Edward Island who was arrested under a rarely used provision of the Criminal Code amid allegations that police feared he would commit a terrorism offence.

The RCMP issued a brief statement saying only that Amir Raisolsadat was arrested after a peace bond was ordered under Section 810.01 of the Criminal Code of Canada. Information

sworn in court in Charlottetown on Tuesday states that Raisolsadat, a student from Stratford, was released on conditions and must return to provincial court on April 20.

The court document indicates that RCMP member Alexis Triantafillou "fears on reasonable grounds" that Raisolsadat will commit a terrorism offence.

Raisolsadat signed the recognizance acknowledging the allegation, while also agreeing

to remain in the province and notify the RCMP if he changes his address, employment or occupation. He agreed to pay \$500 if he fails to appear in court.

He must also not possess a firearm and report to police once a week.

The RCMP refused to release any information about him or the specific nature of the alleged threat, citing an ongoing criminal investigation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDMONTON

Khadr's bail in hands of judge

Lawyers for former Guantanamo Bay inmate Omar Khadr say he's optimistic, but not getting his hopes up, about getting out on bail.

Following a two-day hearing, an Edmonton judge said she needs time to make a decision on the "high priority" case.

Court of Queen's Bench Justice June Ross must first decide if she has the authority to grant bail to a Canadian appealing a conviction by a foreign court. If she finds she does — and if she agrees that Khadr should be released — lawyers are to return to

IF RELEASED

If released on bail, Khadr plans to live in Edmonton with his longtime lawyer, Dennis Edney.

court to argue his bail conditions.

Nathan Whitting, one of Khadr's lawyers, told reporters outside court that the judge has a lot to think about.

"This is the first case, not only in Canada, but anywhere in the world where an internationally transferred prisoner has sought

bail pending appeal after the transfer."

Khadr pleaded guilty in 2010 to five war-crimes charges, including murder, for killing an American soldier in Afghanistan when he was 15.

After spending nearly a decade in Guantanamo Bay, he was sentenced by a U.S. military commission to an additional eight years and transferred to Canada to complete his sentence. He later admitted he pleaded guilty only to get out of Guantanamo and he appealed the conviction to a U.S. military court. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Pilot locked out of cockpit before crash, says report



French President Francois Hollande, center, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, left, and Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy attend a news conference in Seyne-les-Alpes, France, Wednesday after a Germanwings jetliner crashed Tuesday in the French Alps.

CHRISTOPHE ENA, POOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FLIGHT 9525

Investigators analyze audio from mangled black box

The first half of Germanwings Flight 9525 was chilling in its normalcy. It took off from Barcelona en route to Duesseldorf, climbing up over the Mediterranean and turning over France. The last communication was a routine request to continue on its route.

Minutes later, at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, the Airbus A320 inexplicably began to descend. Within 10 minutes it had plunged from its cruising altitude of 38,000 feet to just over 6,000 feet and slammed into a remote mountainside.

To find out why, investigators have been analyzing the mangled black box that contains an audio recording from the cockpit. Remi Jouty, the head of France's accident investigation bureau BEA, said Wednesday that it has yielded sounds and voices, but so far not the "slightest explanation" of why the plane crashed, killing all 150 on board.

A newspaper report, however, suggests the audio contains intriguing information

at the least: One of the pilots is heard leaving the cockpit, then banging on the door with increasing urgency in an unsuccessful attempt to get back in.

"The guy outside is knocking lightly on the door and there is no answer," The New York Times quotes an unidentified investigator as saying. "And then he hits the door stronger and no answer. There is never an answer."

Eventually, the newspaper quotes the investigator as saying: "You can hear he is trying to smash the door down."

The investigator, whom the newspaper said could not be identified because the investigation is continuing, said officials don't know why the pilot left. He also does not speculate on why the other pilot didn't open the door or make contact with ground control before the crash.

Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, airlines in the U.S. don't leave one pilot alone in the cockpit. The standard operating procedure is that if one of the pilots leaves — for example to use the bathroom — a flight attendant takes their spot in the cockpit. It was not immediately clear if European airlines have adopted the same practice.

The names of the pilots have not been released.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

150

According to Germanwings, the victims included 72 German citizens, as well as 35 Spaniards, two people each from Australia, Argentina, Iran, Venezuela and one person each from Britain, the Netherlands, Colombia, Mexico, Japan, Denmark, Belgium and Israel.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

YEMEN

President flees country

Yemeni President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi fled the country by sea Wednesday on a boat from Aden, as Shiite rebels and their allies advanced on the southern port city where he had taken refuge, captured his defence minister and seized the city's airport.

Hadi's departure marks a dramatic turn in Yemen's turmoil and means a decisive collapse of what was left of his rule, which the United States and Gulf allies had hoped could stabilize the chronically chaotic nation and fight al-Qaida's branch here after the 2011 ouster of longtime autocrat Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Over the past year, the Shiite rebels known as Houthis, who are believed to be supported by Iran, have battled their way out of their northern strongholds, overwhelmed the capital, Sanaa, seized province after province in the north and worked their way south. Their advance has been boosted by units of the military and security forces that remained loyal to Saleh, who allied with the rebels.

With Hadi gone, there remains resistance to the Houthis scattered around the country, whether from Sunni tribesmen, local militias, pro-Hadi military units or al-Qaida fighters.

Hadi and his aides left Aden after 3:30 p.m. on two boats, security and port officials told The Associated Press. The officials would not specify his destination. But Hadi is scheduled to attend an Arab summit in Egypt on the weekend, where Arab allies are scheduled to discuss formation of a joint Arab force that could pave the way for military intervention against Houthis.

His flight came after Houthis and Saleh loyalists advanced against Hadi's allies on multiple fronts. Military officials said militias and military units loyal to Hadi had "fragmented," speeding the rebel advance. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to reporters. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Yemeni President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NIGERIA

Boko Haram abducts hundreds as human shields

Hundreds of civilians, including many children, have been abducted and are being used as human shields by Boko Haram extremists, a top Nigerian official confirmed Wednesday.

The news of the mass kidnappings comes as Nigeria prepares for crucial elections on Saturday.

Several hundred people were taken captive by the Islamic militants as they retreated earlier this month from Damasak in northeastern Nigeria, Mike Omeri, the Nigerian spokesman for the fight

against Boko Haram, told The Associated Press Wednesday. He said he could not specify how many were taken captive but local reports say as many as 500 people were seized.

When troops from Chad and Niger advanced toward Damasak, Boko Haram began taking captives, said Omeri, speaking in Nigeria's capital, Abuja.

"Boko Haram ... rushed to primary schools they took children and adults that they are using as shields to protect themselves from the menacing advance of troops," said

Omeri. "They are being used as shields by Boko Haram."

Damasak, near the border with Niger, was recaptured from Boko Haram on March 16. The kidnappings of civilians has only been confirmed now.

The soldiers who recaptured Damasak found the town largely deserted. Damasak had been held for months by Boko Haram, who used the trading town as an administrative centre.

The troops from Chad and Niger who now hold Damasak

have discovered evidence of a mass grave, Chad's ambassador to the UN Mahamat Zene Cherif confirmed Wednesday.

Almost a year ago some 276 girls were kidnapped before dawn from a government boarding school in Chibok. Dozens escaped in the first couple of days, but 219 remain missing. The case of the missing schoolgirls has gained widespread international attention and spawned the #BringBackOurGirls campaign on social media.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

+ BACKGROUND

Elections

Nigeria's battle against the Islamic extremists is a major issue for the elections to be held Saturday. The six-year-old Islamic insurgency has killed thousands, including an estimated 10,000 last year. Boko Haram has vowed to violently disrupt the elections.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



This 2010 file photo shows the firing squad execution chamber at the Utah State Prison in Draper, Utah. Utah has passed a law that makes it the only state to employ firing squads if no lethal injection drugs are available for executions. TRENT NELSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Utah firing squads incite controversy

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Tourism industry fears travellers may go elsewhere

Utah lawmakers say they took a pragmatic approach in approving the firing squad as a form of execution if lethal-injection drugs aren't available.

Their thinking: Develop a backup plan in case a nationwide lethal-drug shortage persists.

But critics say bringing back the firing squad in Utah — the only state to use the method in the past 40 years — could tarnish the state's image with visitors.

Tourism is big business in Utah, home to world-class ski resorts and spectacular national parks. Travellers spent a record \$7.5 billion in the state in 2013, and tourism dollars are linked

to one of every 10 Utah jobs, according to a University of Utah report released this year.

But firing squad executions draw a different kind of attention — one Utah lawmakers decided 11 years ago that the state didn't need. Former state Rep. Sheryl Allen said Tuesday reinstating the firing squad as a backup could once again elicit criticism and give the state a bad reputation.

"I think Utah needs to be concerned. That's not what we want our attention on," said Allen, a Republican who sponsored the 2004 bill that did away with firing squads as a primary execution method.

Bringing back the method adds fuel to the fire for critics who point to other Utah oddities — such as its strict, sometimes confusing liquor laws — as reasons to steer clear, said David Corsun, director of the University of Denver's Fritz Knoebel

School of Hospitality Management.

The firing squad could affect Salt Lake City's position in the competitive and lucrative convention business, Corsun said.

Large associations with members of varied political and social backgrounds try to avoid states where controversial laws recently have passed.

Current legislators and tourism officials, however, downplayed the new law's impact on Utah's image. State tourism director Vicki Varela said in a statement she doesn't think the firing squad presents a major problem because executions are rare and the possibility that the state will have to use its backup is remote.

The bill's sponsor, Republican Rep. Paul Ray, said the issue of firing squads in Utah is far less controversial than the ACLU and critics want to make it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NATIONAL SERVICE

Military brass worried about transgender soldiers: Sources

U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter has gotten pushback from senior military leaders on whether the Pentagon should lift its ban on transgender people serving in the armed forces, according to officials familiar with the discussions.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

Military officials are reluctant to publicly discuss their opposition, but much of it cen-

tres on questions about where transgender troops would be housed, what berthing they would have on ships, which bathrooms they would use, and whether their presence would affect the ability of small units to work well together.

There also are questions about whether the military would conduct or pay for the medical treatment and costs associated with any gender transition, as well as which physical training standards

they would be required to meet.

The military has dealt with many similar questions as it integrated the ranks by race, gender and sexual orientation. And in many cases they raised comparable worries about what effect the change would have on the force, including whether it would hinder small units that often have to work together in remote, confined locations for long periods of time.

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PLEASE DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Knox conviction in error: Lawyer

MURDER TRIAL

Defence argues decision is a distortion of the facts

Amanda Knox's defence lawyer urged Italy's highest court on Wednesday to overturn the American's conviction in the 2007 murder of her British roommate, calling it a "grave judicial error."

Knox faces 28-1/2 years in an Italian jail for the 2007 murder of 21-year-old Meredith Kercher in an apartment they



Amanda Knox in New York in 2014. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

shared in the university town of Perugia, after being convicted by a Florence appeals court last year along with her former Italian boyfriend, Raffaele Sollecito.

Sollecito's defence will make its case on Friday, when the case resumes before the Court of Cassation.

Winding up Wednesday's full day of arguments, Knox defence lawyer Carlo Dalla Vedova said the Florence court's conviction of Knox "is not justice, it is a distortion of the facts."

He argued, that based on analysis of blood stains, including two handprints on the victim's pillow, in Kercher's room and elsewhere in the house the two women shared, "there is not one trace of Amanda in the room of the crime."

"We are confronted with a very grave judicial error that must be set right," he said before asking the court to overturn the 2014 guilty verdict.

Knox maintains her innocence. She returned to the United States in 2011 after an earlier appellate court verdict acquitted the pair. She



Raffaele Sollecito, the ex-boyfriend of Amanda Knox, arrives at Italy's highest court building, in Rome, Wednesday. ALESSANDRA TARANTINO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

was awaiting the high court's decision in her home town of Seattle, and is "worried, very worried," Dalla Vedova said.

"I don't think she is sleeping much," he added.

Sollecito spent the day in court, joined by family members and supporters. Defendants are not permitted to

address the high court. He remains free but his passport was seized after the Florence court sentenced him to 25 years.

The Cassation Court's options include confirming the guilty verdicts, raising the question of extradition for Knox; overturning the convictions and ordering a third

appeals trial; or overturning the convictions without a new trial, tantamount to acquittal.

Knox and Sollecito were convicted in 2009 of the murder, then acquitted by a Perugia appeals court in 2011. The Court of Cassation, however, threw out the acquittal in a scathing decision, remanding the case



I don't think she is sleeping much

Amanda Knox's defence lawyer, Carlo Dalla Vedova, on his client's state of mind

to a Florence appeals court, which convicted the pair.

The judge who presided over the appeals trial that acquitted the pair said the defendants have been "devastated" by the drawn out, contradictory decisions.

Now retired, Claudio Pratillo Hellmann, in comments to the Italian news agency ANSA, predicted that the United States wouldn't agree to extradite Knox.

Kercher family lawyer Francesco Maresca said he hoped the Cassation Court would reach a final decision, confirming the verdicts and ending the long legal saga.

"I hope that that family can remember the poor victim outside of the halls of justice after so many years," Maresca said.

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TAKEOVER CENTURY-OLD FIRMS MERGE H.J. Heinz is buying Kraft Foods Group, creating one of the world's largest food and beverage companies that will own brands such as Kraft, Heinz and Oscar Mayer. The deal that created the new Kraft Heinz Co., with annual revenue of about \$28 billion US, was engineered by Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway and Brazilian investment firm 3G Capital, the company behind the takeover of Tim Hortons by Burger King last year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Watchdog slams Bell over meddling report

BROADCASTING

Bell Media's head allegedly wanted Blais blackballed

Canada's broadcasting regulator has issued a sharply worded reminder to Bell Media that it has a statutory duty not to interfere in the work of its CTV journalists, calling a report of meddling "disturbing."

The warning follows a Globe and Mail article that says Bell Media president Kevin Crull

intervened in how journalists reported a major regulatory decision last week. The decision had not gone the way the corporation had hoped.

The Globe says Crull demanded that journalists not give any airtime to Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) chairman Jean-Pierre Blais. CTV president Wendy Freeman is said to have communicated that edict to journalists, reportedly explaining that she feared for her job.

Blais had just announced rule changes requiring broadcasters to offer a low-cost pack-

An informed citizenry cannot be sacrificed for ... commercial interests

Jean-Pierre Blais, CRTC chairman

age to consumers and to allow them to "pick and pay" other individual channels. He had appeared at a news conference, and also did individual interviews that day.

"The allegation ... that the

largest communication company in Canada is manipulating news coverage is disturbing," Blais wrote.

The Globe report says CTV Ottawa bureau chief Bob Fife, chief anchor Lisa LaFlamme and Freeman, ultimately refused to abide by Crull's edict for the evening newscast.

Crull has apologized for intruding on the editorial integrity of the CTV's news team. He said he was wrong to try to influence the editorial decisions of CTV journalists and has "apologized to the team directly for this mistake."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MEDIA

Postmedia cleared to buy Sun papers

Postmedia Network Canada Corp.'s \$316-million deal to buy Sun Media's English-language newspapers and digital properties cleared a key regulatory hurdle Wednesday.

The Competition Bureau approved the deal as it ruled it is unlikely to substantially lessen or prevent competition.

Commissioner of Competition John Pecman said the bureau conducted an extensive review of this merger.

"We found that advertisers and readers continue to value print newspapers, despite the growth of online sources as an alternative," Pecman said in a statement. "However, our review concluded that there would not be significant anti-competitive effects for readers or advertisers arising from the proposed transaction."

The bureau cited a lack of a close rivalry between Postmedia's broadsheet newspapers and Sun Media's tabloid newspapers.

The regulator also said the media company will want to keep readers and maintain editorial quality to attract advertisers to its newspapers.

Sun Media parent Quebecor Inc. said Wednesday the deal with Postmedia is now expected to close in the coming weeks. In the meantime, Sun

“Our review concluded that there would not be significant anti-competitive effects for readers or advertisers”

Commissioner of Competition John Pecman

Media will continue to operate the newspapers.

Postmedia already has one of Canada's largest chains of daily newspapers including the National Post and dailies in Montreal, Ottawa, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver.

The deal, announced last year, will add 175 newspapers and publications, including the Sun chain of daily newspapers as well as the London Free Press and the 24 Hours free dailies in Toronto and Vancouver.

The sale also includes the Canoe web portal in English Canada, part of the national sales team based in Toronto, Quebecor's Islington printing plant in Ontario and 34 real estate properties in Ontario, Alberta and Manitoba.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

	DOLLAR 79.89¢ (-0.10¢)
	TSX 14,929.37 (-151.89)
	OIL \$49.21 US (+\$1.70)
	GOLD \$1,197 US (+\$5.60)

NATURAL GAS: \$2.723 US (-6.3¢)
DOW JONES: 17,718.54 (-292.60)

Dating site fined

PlentyOfFish has paid a fine of \$48,000 after the CRTC found the online dating website violated its new anti-spam legislation. Complaints alleged PlentyOfFish Media Inc. sent emails that did not have a clearly labelled or easy-to-use unsubscribe option. THE CANADIAN PRESS

OIL INDUSTRY

Think-tank predicts slow crude recovery

The Conference Board of Canada delivered bad news Wednesday for those hoping that the latest crude oil downturn will create only short-term pain.

The Ottawa-based think-tank predicts that Canada's oil industry will see a 37 per cent drop in revenues, a pre-tax loss of \$3 billion and the 8,000 fewer jobs this year compared with 2014.

And the industry is unlikely to bounce back as quickly this time as it did after the last major drop in 2008 and 2009,

it said in a report published Wednesday.

Crude prices saw a much more drastic drop the last time around — touching records above \$140 US a barrel and lows around \$33 US in a half-year span — but by 2011, were back above \$100 US.

The U.S. crude benchmark now sits below \$48 US a barrel, compared with \$107 US last June.

"I know it looks rough right now but hopefully by the end of 2015, we start to see prices back towards \$60 and maybe

we start to see the light at the end of the tunnel," Conference Board economist Mike Shaw said.

The Conference Board's outlook through 2019 sees \$80 US oil is the best it gets. The main reason is fracking technology that has helped unleash huge crude volumes from U.S. shale formations — a big contributor to the current slump.

"The period of triple-digit oil has passed for now. With the technological genie of horizontal drilling and multi-stage fracturing forever out of the

bottle, the U.S. industry will be able to respond quickly and increase production if prices reach \$80 US a barrel again, putting a hard cap on prices," the Conference Board said in its report.

Many new oilsands projects aren't economically feasible at today's prices. Break-even costs for projects that extract bitumen by injecting steam underground are between \$60 US to \$80 US a barrel. For a new open-pit mining project, it's \$90 US to \$100 US a barrel.

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ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Gay hair sweater? 'Hello?! Holocaust!' I'm pretty sure I yelled that in the newsroom.

There is a room at Auschwitz filled with piles and piles of human hair, braided or coiled into balls. I stood there five years ago in horror.

It's all I could think of when I first saw what's been dubbed the "gay sweater," unveiled this week in Toronto. The bulky, brownish sweater is knitted entirely of hair from gay people's heads.

By making something literally from gay people, the sweater's creators hope to underline that people, not things, are gay, and that the phrase "that's so gay" is always homophobic. But that wasn't the first message I got.

"Hello?! Holocaust!" I'm pretty sure I yelled that in the newsroom.

The Nazis harvested their victims' hair and sold it to companies, which used it for mattress stuffing, carpets, and socks. The creators of the sweater were either ignorant of the similarities and symbolism, I figured, or too arrogant to care. As upset as I was, I'm now guessing it's not as angry as gay people in California (or anywhere else) might be this week. A lawyer there is trying to pass a ballot measure that would make it legal to shoot them, point blank, for being gay. The Sodomite Suppression Act calls gayness an "abominable crime" that will bring "God's just wrath." To prevent that, it demands "any person who willingly touches another person of the same gender for purposes of sexual

gratification be put to death by bullets to the head or by any other convenient method." Long pause.

No, this is not actually going to become law. But in the meantime, it's generating headlines. Just like the gay sweater. And I can't stop thinking of Auschwitz and that room.

Jeremy Dias has also stood there. He's the founder of the Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity, which is behind the gay sweater project. He remembered how "among the failing colours of the hair this one piece of red hair was just so striking" that he and others burst into tears when they saw it. Dias had considered that some people might see a resemblance, but his project is nothing like what happened at Auschwitz, he said. By making that association, he argued, I was proving his point: Perhaps I didn't even think to get upset about the ubiquitous "that's so gay" because I've come to accept it as part of the way people speak. He's wrong. I do not think "that's so gay" is acceptable. But I might have come to expect it.

I'm also not being threatened with murder in California, however theoretical. Nor am I likely to be attacked for holding my boyfriend's hand here in Canada. The gay sweater is provocative on purpose in an effort to end hate. And in the context of that battle, my discomfort matters far less.

the big number

39%

Percentage of Canadians aged 18 to 24 who vote, according to a study by Samara. The study says youth drive down overall voter turnout, and are increasingly less likely to ever start voting.

Banks are designing our homes, and not for the better



ON ARCHITECTURE
Alexander Josephson

One of the upshots of the real estate boom over the last decade is that Canadians have, for better or worse, become armchair connoisseurs of design.

We hear people talking at dinner parties about how recladding a house in COR-TEN steel panels, upgrading kitchen counters with Corian, or adding an egg tub to a bathroom will increase their property values.

While these makeovers may have short-term pay-offs, they reflect a Canadian predicament: People are focused on renovations, not architecture.

Since 2008, our banks have become famous for playing it safe. What many people don't realize, however, is the extent to which banks, in all their cautious

glory, are influencing the design process.

As a result, Canadians' design dreams are getting stuck in second gear and architects looked upon as a luxury instead of a vital investment.

Whether you're a growing family, value sustainability, or cherish state-of-the-art design, people want architecture to be responsive to their tastes and lifestyles.

Say you decide to renovate or want to build anew. You need money.

But what you quickly realize in meeting with your mortgage specialist is that the bank is only willing to take you half the way home.

Canadian banks will typically finance 40 to 60 per cent of a property's value for renovation or rebuilding, depending on your personal circumstances.

At the end of the day, many successful younger Canadians are discovering

that even with great jobs, good credit, and existing home ownership, you need savings, lines of credit, high-interest personal

The 25-year mortgage is dictating a calibre of architecture the general public can ill afford.

loans, and — for the lucky bunch — generous parents to help square the costs.

Put another way, Mike Holmes has a prime-time empire precisely because it's too prohibitive to build comprehensive projects the first time around without exceeding available resources.

Sound design is a casualty of a chicken-and-egg tango between banks and real estate markets, neither of

which are willing to invest.

It is this cycle — more so than permitting or building codes — that drives the quality and esthetics of Canadian residential architecture and is fostering a culture of compromise.

In many cases, unless you miraculously find a pot of gold to build what you really want, people have no choice but to accept lower price-tag, construction-grade builds.

Essentially, bankers are designing our homes, and the 25-year mortgage is dictating a calibre of architecture the general public can ill afford.

We need to look beyond the tips of our Corian countertops and start seeing architecture as a long-term investment.

Alexander Josephson is co-founder of PARTISANS Architecture and a lecturer at the University of Toronto Daniels School of Architecture.



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IF YOU DO NOT CHANGE DIRECTION, YOU MAY END UP WHERE YOU ARE HEADING



LAO TZO



Throw out the little black dress

TORONTO FASHION WEEK

Narces brings whimsy and luxurious fun to evening wear

Narces brought the party to the runway with a new collection punctuated by playful patterns, cute cocktail dresses and fanciful frocks.

"There's always an undertone of not-so-serious, have fun with your evening wear, enjoy what you're wearing," designer Nikki Wirthensohn

said backstage at Toronto's World MasterCard Fashion Week on Tuesday.

"This was kind of the height of being whimsical and ... bringing out the sense of humour, I guess, in how you can dress."

Red-lip prints dotted on sumptuous short-sleeved dresses were the perfect embodiment of the collection's flirty, feminine and formal style fusion.

The vast spectrum of designs encompassed everything from flowing baby doll dresses to body-hugging sheaths.

Full-length dresses were

richly adorned with swaths of strategically placed sequins, lace and embellishments. A luxurious jumpsuit was also showcased in the range.

The new line featured a palette of black, ivory, gold, silver, red and a combination of black and ivory in organza, lace, laser-cut satin, stretch knit, mesh and tulle.



There's always an undertone of not-so-serious, have fun with your evening wear, enjoy what you're wearing

Designer Nikki Wirthensohn

Wirthensohn said she was inspired by the work of Japanese artist Sachiko Kodama's ferrofluid art.

The process involves the use of a liquid (ferrofluid) that becomes highly magnetized with the presence of a magnetic field and forms a moving sculpture.

"We've got lots of dresses where the body is kind of forming that magnetic field."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

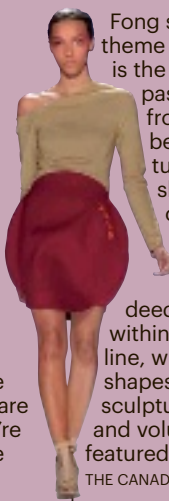
FASHION NOTES

Designer Sunny Fong on the dot with new collection for VAWK

Sunny Fong made a colourful return to the runway at World MasterCard Fashion Week on Tuesday with his fall-winter collection for VAWK, awash in vibrant shades.

Fong draws on '60s style influences and the pop art of late American icon Roy Lichtenstein for his new range.

"We still have the same VAWK woman, but there are other silhouettes that we're playing with that is a little bit of a departure."



Fong said the running theme for his new line is the dot, encompassing everything from buttons on beautifully structured coats to the shapes of the creations themselves.

The inspiration does indeed come full circle within the Dot Du Jour line, with the spherical shapes evident in the sculptural sleeved tops and voluminous skirts featured in the collection.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Magnetic field: Models walk the runway for the Narces collection during Toronto Fashion Week.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tokyo men one step ahead of style

MENSWEAR

Future of men's fashion lives in Japan's striking streetstyle

Feminine glamour may turn the most heads at fashion weeks in New York or Paris, but in Tokyo it is the style-conscious men who set the sartorial trends.

From sharp futurism to wool-and-denim casuals, the finale of Tokyo Fashion Week earlier this month put the spotlight largely on menswear, aiming to promote the most dynamic area of Japanese clothes design.

"What happens here is probably the future of men's fashion," said Antonio Cristaudo from Pitti Immagine, a collection of fashion industry events in Italy.

"There's individuality, they want to be different," he told AFP. "It's important for all the fashion world to see what's happening in Japan."

Such innovation is nowhere more evident than on the streets of Tokyo, from the vintage and skater styles of Ura-Hara to the slick suits of the Marunouchi business district.

With sharp tailoring and eye-catching accessories, from hats and bags to shiny shoes, the get-up of Tokyo gents is striking to the first-time visitor.

"The menswear is just so much more exciting than womenswear here," said Misha Janette, an American fashion journalist based in Tokyo, who suggested the tendency for women to cover up meant their clothes could be "a bit shapeless."

For the men, meanwhile, "it's OK to do your hair, be into fashion, use skincare," Janette said. "They like to be proper in Japan."

Although Tokyo's dandies shine at home and start trends that travel abroad, the success of Japan's own designers has been limited overseas.

The industry is now trying to change that with the new Tokyo Fashion Awards, backed by the city government, which push home-grown brands to emulate their leading lights such as Junya Watanabe and Rei Kawakubo, founder of Comme des Garçons.

The awards jury chose six brands, predominantly menswear-focused, which were seen to have international potential. The winners held a showroom at Paris Fashion Week this year and presented their autumn/winter collections in Tokyo on Saturday. AFP

Glasses, shirt, tie, waistcoat and suit by Thom Browne at Shibuya Hikarie in Tokyo. GETTY IMAGES



A Tokyo Fashion Week guest dons a jacket by Dissborn, shoes by Dr. Martens and hat by Kenzo.

GETTY IMAGES

FASHION NOTES

Emerging designer returns to runway as startup winner

After earning a lucrative emerging designer prize at World MasterCard Fashion Week, Sid Neigum returned to the Toronto runway on Monday with a fully produced show and a \$30,000 bursary, giving his brand a welcome cash boost.

In 2012, the Toronto-based designer won the Toronto Fashion Incubator's New Labels contest and \$25,000 cash.

Neigum earned an additional \$2,500 last October for another victory tied to the startup contest by designing a winning outfit inspired by Minnie Mouse.

His line is now being carried by Hudson's Bay Co.'s luxury department The Room and Toronto boutique Jonathan+Olivia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Sid Neigum
THE CANADIAN PRESS

East meets West in cool looks from Pink Tartan

Womenswear label Pink Tartan channelled international influences for its latest cool weather looks.

"I felt this is a really East meets West moment," head designer Kimberley Newport-Mimran said in a backstage interview at Toronto's World MasterCard Fashion Week on Monday.

Pink Tartan unveiled a range of cosy, snuggle-worthy textured knits and furs, paired alongside garments with relaxed kimono sleeves and tie-front detailing.

The designer cited a new outerwear piece as key for fall-winter. Pink Tartan had no shortage of fresh takes on cool-weather toppers,

including shaggy furs and multi-pocketed coats.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



A Pink Tartan cool-weather look. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Cover unveiled for Harper Lee novel

JACKET ART

Go Set a Watchman will remind fans of Mockingbird

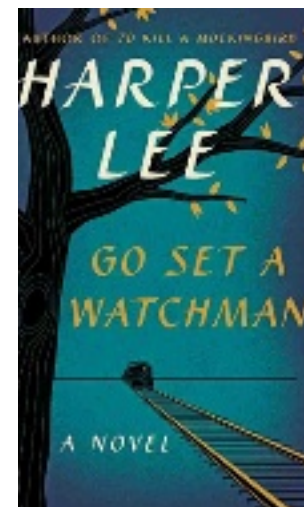
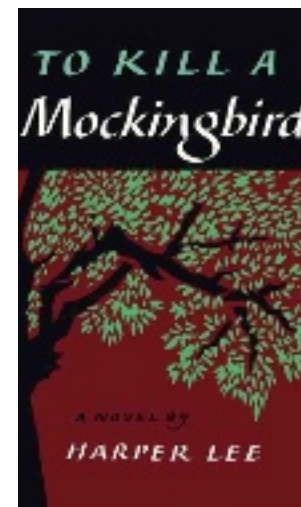
The cover for Harper Lee's new novel will remind you of the cover for her old one.

On Wednesday, HarperCollins unveiled the jacket art for Lee's *Go Set a Watchman*, the unexpected followup to her classic *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Like *To Kill a Mockingbird*, it features a moody illustration with an oak tree, but also train tracks and a train in the distance.

In a statement released by HarperCollins, company president Michael Morrison noted that *Go Set a Watchman* begins with *Mockingbird* protagonist Scout Finch returning by train 20 years later, in the '50s, to her native Alabama.

"There are so many wonderful parts of *Go Set a Watchman* that it was hard to pick just one iconic im-



The similarities are evident. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

age to represent the book," Morrison said. "This design is perfect — it draws on the style of the decade the book was written, but with a modern twist."

Jonathan Burnham, a senior vice-president at HarperCollins, said that creating an entirely new image had "certainly crossed our minds," but that he and others kept coming back "to the central

idea that the cover should in some ways connect to *To Kill a Mockingbird*." An oak tree, *Mockingbird* fans know, can be found on the property where the reclusive Boo Radley lives, in Lee's fictional Maycomb, Ala.

HarperCollins has announced a first printing of 2 million copies and a July 14 release date for *Watchman*. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tove Lo has her head in the Clouds

INTERVIEW

Singer's debut album has her looking at love

Emily Laurence
Metro | New York City

She may have a penchant for bad habits, but that only makes things interesting. On Tove Lo's debut album *Queen of the Clouds*, sex comes before love and she deals with breakups by getting high, going to sex clubs and binge-eating Twinkies. The Swedish 27-year-old has had her fair share of heartbreak. We talk to her about the dark side of relationships and moving on after getting her heart broken.

On having great, no-strings-attached sex:

I've had a lot of sex without hoping it will turn into love. I can definitely separate the two. For me, it doesn't have to be connected. But when you are in love with someone and you have sex, it's always better. But (good sex) can def-

+ READY FOR ANOTHER STAB AT LOVE

Tove Lo may have had some tough times with romance, but she's willing to give it another go.

- "I'm in a really great relationship right now and it's the first time I feel like it's easy," she says.
- This could definitely mark a change in her music. "My next album is maybe going to be a little happier, I think," she says.

HEART MATTERS

Tove Lo



I love being in love. I love the very beginning of a relationship, when things aren't defined and you're just having a great time together. When you're a couple, sometimes there's all these demands that come with it ...

initely cloud your judgment. Talking Body is about that. If you start off having great sex, things tend to last longer than if you started by going on a date and don't click.

The best revenge on an ex: It's hard when you've been hurt. All you want is for the

other person to be hurt as well. But the best revenge is just to not care anymore. The feeling of that person wanting you back when you're completely over it is the best revenge. I've been that person, wanting the other person back and he was like, 'No, you f—ed it up.' That was probably the



Tove Lo says the best revenge when you've been hurt by an ex is not caring anymore. GETTY IMAGES

hardest feeling for me because I ruined something really good and now I can't fix it.

Relationships versus the single life:

I like being single more, but somehow I always end up in

a relationship. I love being in love. I love the very beginning of a relationship, when things aren't defined and you're just having a great time together. When you're a couple, sometimes there's all these demands that come with it, like

'Oh now that we're a couple, you can't do that.' But it becomes really beautiful when you show your weaknesses and flaws. I think it's easier to be single, but it's definitely worth it to be in a relationship when you really love someone.

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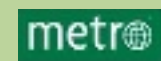
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Books from beyond the grave

READING

Highly anticipated releases from dead authors are all the rage

Mike Dojc
For Metro

Despite new releases coming down the pipe by adored and still-kicking scribes like Toni Morrison and Jonathan Franzen, the most hotly awaited fiction releases in the next 12 months come courtesy of stone-cold dead literary lions.

Publishers have unearthed and dusted off previously unseen books by beat generation icon Jack Kerouac, rhyme maestro Dr. Seuss, and if the rumours bear out, even more new work by high school English teacher favourite, J.D. Salinger.

But, if these manuscripts

weren't published during their author's lifetime, might that not have been on purpose, and do publishers have any misgivings about potentially disrespecting late writers' wishes?

"That's a big question," concedes Jean Bernier, editor at Les Éditions du Boréal, the Montreal publishing house releasing *La vie est d'hommage*, a collection of previously unseen French-language Jack Kerouac work.

"Of course we'll never know what the author thinks about that, but if you're someone like Salinger or Kerouac, you're so famous that in part you belong to the readers, you belong to the history of literature."

"So I don't have any moral qualms (when we are talking about) such important writers — I think it's in the public interest."

Tom Graves, a partner at The Devault-Graves Agency that got the posthumous Salinger train chugging last year when they released *Three Early Stories* is far less diplomatic

“... if you're someone like Salinger... you belong to the readers

Jean Bernier

on the subject.

"Authors, schmauthors. Many of them are notoriously nitwitty about their books. Take J.D. Salinger. Please."

"He wrote in a dungeon for nearly 50 years and wouldn't show his writings to anyone — kept it all in a safe," he says.

"But who knows? Salinger would have really hated the fact we republished three early stories of his, even though they are quite good and are examples of Salinger's muse before he nearly went mad in combat in WWII."

"He was a very changed man after the war and no longer felt his early work had value. I hate to tell him, but he is wrong," adds Graves.



BOOKS

Posthumous new releases in stores soon



What Pet Should I Get?

The brother-and-sister duo featured in this previously boxed manuscript discovered by Theodore Geisel's widow are the same kids who appear in *One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish*, dating the work from between 1958 and 1962. The rediscovered tome hits shelves July 28 and Random House has teased that there will be even more previously unseen Seuss in store.



That Which Does Not Kill

Stieg Larsson wrote three instalments of his Millennium series — a.k.a. *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* books — and planned to pen seven more before he died of a heart attack in 2004. Keeping it Swedish, writer David Lagercrantz revives everyone's favourite goth hacker heroine in a new sequel out Sept. 1.



La vie est d'hommage

Kerouac fans are giddy about this collection of texts preserved by Kerouac's brother-in-law, due out in the spring of 2016. The book includes the early '50s novel *La nuit est ma femme* as well as a novella titled *Sur le chemin*, which despite translating to *On the Road* differs from the author's career-defining book. The non-profit Library of America will publish the English version.

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Get mixing with Mad Men

What the Mad Men — and women — drink says a lot. With the final episodes of the season set to begin April 5 on AMC, we toast these characters with some signature cocktails from the '60s. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS;PHOTOS: AMC/LIONSGATE



VODKA GIMLET Betty's break

This is Betty's signature drink and would most likely have been made with half vodka, half Rose's West India Sweetened Lime Juice served over ice. When the Cuban missile crisis looms and there's trouble in her marriage to Don, Betty orders a gimlet at a bar before engaging in a backroom tryst with a stranger.



OLD FASHIONED Don's drink

Back then this would have been made with a cheap, blended whisky, possibly Don's favourite — Canadian Club. Start with a sugar cube and a few drops of bitters and muddle in a cherry and orange wedge, adding the whisky and possibly a lemon wedge garnish. These days, bartenders use a good bourbon or rye and add just a dash of sugar and bitters.



DRY MARTINI Just for Joan

The show's second season picked up in 1962, the year Dr No informed the world James Bond drank a vodka — as opposed to a gin — martini, shaken and not stirred. A traditional approach is 2 ounces vodka, 1/3 ounce dry vermouth, olive garnish. Unflappable Joan likely wouldn't care if it's shaken or stirred — and if you're serving this over ice, it doesn't really matter.

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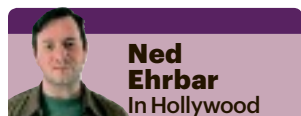
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One Direction loses bad boy Zayn Malik

MUSIC

The singer is parting ways with the pop group



Ned Ehrbar
In Hollywood

Looks like the stress was more severe than we thought.

Five years after being cobbled together by Simon Cowell on The X Factor, One Direction has gone from a fivesome to a foursome, as Zayn Malik has announced that he is resigning from the hugely successful pop group. Niall Horan, Harry Styles, Liam Payne and Louis Tomlinson, currently on a world tour, will continue as a four-piece. "My life with One Direction has been more than I could ever have imagined," Malik says in a statement. "But, after five years, I feel like it is now the right time for me to leave the band. I'd like to apologize to the fans if I've let anyone down, but I have to do what feels right."



After five years, Zayn Malik is leaving One Direction. ALL AP/GETTY

MUST READ

HIP HOP

Inside the mind of rapper Iggy Azalea

Just in case there were any lingering questions you had about how Iggy Azalea's mind works, Vogue subjected the Australian rapper to a rapid-fire list of 73 questions.

How they landed on 73 as a number is beyond me, but hey, the more you know.

For instance, her favourite TV show is Game of Thrones,



and her superpower of choice is invisibility. And she loves tacos, because clearly she's a human being.

But some of the information she divulges to the magazine is rather revealing: "Four months ago, I got bigger boobs! I'd thought about it my entire life," she says, admitting she didn't initially want to share the information. "But then I decided I wasn't into secret-keeping." Obviously.

MOVIES

Vin Diesel has high hopes for Furious 7

With the seventh film in Fast and Furious franchise set to come out next month and expected to rack up the kind of titanic global success the last few have seen, it's understandable that series star Vin Diesel might be feeling a bit bullish on its prospects.

Maybe too bullish, actually. "Universal is going to have the biggest movie in history with this movie. It will probably win best picture at the Oscars, unless the Oscars don't want to be relevant, ever," Diesel tells Variety. "This will win best picture. There is nothing that will ever



Vin Diesel

come close to the power of this thing." Mr. Diesel, I'm glad you're so pleased with your latest work, but let's temper this excitement a bit, yeah?

DIVORCE

Lena Headey on her split

Lena Headey, who plays reigning Game of Thrones ice queen Cersei Lannister, is a lot more emotionally open in real life, especially when it comes to discussing her 2012 divorce from Peter Loughran. "It's tough," she tells More magazine. "There's a lot of hurt and sadness and disappointment. Grief. Massive grief. It's a mourning process, and yet nobody's died." That's some impressive eloquence, right there.



FAN DRAMA

Rowling wins again



J.K. Rowling

Harry Potter creator J.K. Rowling wins the Internet once again, this time by calmly shutting down a reader who took issue with the fact that one of her characters, Dumbledore, is gay. "Thank you so much for writing Harry Potter," the fan tweeted. "I wonder why you said that Dumbledore is a gay because I can't see him in that way." Rowling, understandably good with words, offered back a simple: "Maybe because gay people just look like ... people?"

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What they're a\$king

Townhouses offer a great alternative to conventional, single-family homes. And they're not all in the deep suburbs. You can buy one a mere 10-minute commute from downtown — a great value and convenience if you work in the city. Metro takes a look at some new and resale townhouses near the core of Canadian cities.

DUNCAN MCALLISTER FOR METRO



\$459,000

Ottawa

This resale townhouse at 49 Spruce St., is close to downtown and the Ottawa River Pathway. The freehold, three-storey home has three bedrooms, two bathrooms and two parking spaces, and boasts plenty of upgrades, with a south-facing deck and private fenced yard. Asking price is \$459,000. Listing agent Kerry Millican is with Royal LePage Team Realty, 613-729-9090

\$668,000

Vancouver

Next to Toronto, Vancouver is Canada's highest-priced market, although you can still get good value like this downtown luxury resale townhouse at 1060 Seymour St. Asking price is \$668,000 and includes a private entrance and a split-level, two bedroom, two bathroom layout. The building is less than 10 years old, with 1,100 sq. ft. of living space and a perfect walk score of 100. Listing agent is Harry Kramm with Sotheby's International Realty Canada, 778-374-3100.



\$659,900

Calgary

This condo-style townhouse at 1804 23 Ave. SW in the popular Bankview neighbourhood of Calgary, has three storeys and attached garage with an asking price of \$659,900, reflecting the size of the home with three bedrooms and four baths. The oil downturn has affected certain suburbs, Malick says, "But if it's a good home, it goes quickly." Malick is an agent with Re/Max Real Estate (Central), 403-216-1600.



\$388,395

Winnipeg

Here's a brand new, four-unit, luxury townhouse development at 604 Jessie Ave. — in Winnipeg's Crescentwood community — listed for \$388,395. Corydon Avenue is the place to be, says listing agent Darryl Walsh. The unit features an open-concept interior and private deck and yard, with two bedrooms and two bathrooms on two levels. Walsh works with Royal LePage Dynamic Real Estate, 204-989-5000.

Weekend getaway style

DESIGN CENTRE

Karl Lohnes



Whether it's a lakeside house or a cabin in the woods, everyone loves to escape the city in the spring. Whatever your preferred retreat, a family or guest room is the perfect place to create that home-away-from-home feeling

ALPINE AWAY

Mountain high

From summer chalets to lodges, there's a grandeur in stone fireplaces, hunt club trophies and leather furnishings surrounded by mountain views and babbling brooks.



Horn-inspired dinnerware. Ralph Lauren's Gwyneth 5-piece dinnerware, \$150, TheBay.com

Even the deer get dressed up for a visit to the chalet. Mr. Wapiti kitchen towel, \$14, Simons.ca



SPLISH SPLASH

Waterside

Think navy, white and sand incorporating motifs of rope, green glass and whitewashed everything to create a bright and casual environment.



Rope knot table lamp base, \$150, Pottery-Barn.com



Anchors away! Burlap cushions with anchors, \$30, Homesense.ca

metro

METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING DIRECTORY

Home Matters

Looking for skilled professionals to help your home? Does it need a little TLC? Time to tackle that project in your house that has been bugging you for too long but you're not sure where to go for help? Look no further! Below is a list of local qualified outlets looking to help you out.

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GRAIN POWER
Into the woods

Simple, rustic and natural are the elements that remind me of a cabin in the woods. Recycled, hand-painted and finishes with a patina set the tone for cabin chic.



Faux wood print napkins and tablecloth, from \$5, Simons.ca



Basic elements create stylish storage in the cabin. Rus wall shelf, \$69, UrbanBarn.com

ALL PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED

Bring the cottage into your home

COTTAGE LIVING

Cabin Pressure stars Colin and Justin share tips to spruce up your space

Colin McAllister and Justin Ryan's latest foray into cot-

tage renovation proved significantly tougher than the first.

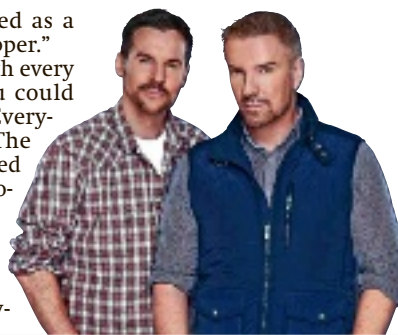
The Scottish design duo documented their transformation of an A-frame log cabin in "essentially good condition" in the debut season of Colin and Justin's Cabin Pressure. The series airs Sunday at 9 p.m. ET on Cottage Life.

Season 2 sees the pair renovate a tiny rustic lakefront property in Haliburton, Ont.,

which Ryan described as a "really rough fixer-upper."

"We had to deal with every type of problem you could imagine," he said. "Everything went wrong. The house had been infested by every type of entomological creature."

"We found dead mice. We found dead beavers. We found dead animals every-



where. Pigeons, birds, the lot. Raccoons, everything.

"However, we love the challenge more than anything that we do in our professional lives. We love the drive to beautify."

The duo acknowledged that not everyone wants or aspires to live in cottage country. But McAllister and Ryan said there are decorative tips homeowners can apply to their homes away from home, as well as city dwellings.



Get rid of the things you don't like, things that annoy you, things that are broken.

Justin Ryan

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1. Clean house

"Get rid of the things you don't like, things that annoy you, things that are broken. You're never going to use these items," said McAllister.

2. Create a design plan

"The mantra we say time and time again: to fail to plan is to plan to fail," said Ryan. In addition to having a budget and list of tasks that need to be accomplished, he suggested combing magazines or watching TV for creative inspiration, then assembling a mood board to help zero in on a design direction.

3. Seek out vintage finds

Ryan said garage sales and thrift stores are ripe sources for items that can be re-invented. "We find amazing things that we can repurpose, and I think that's what it's all about for us."

4. Transform existing pieces

Items that seemed destined for the dumpster could have a second life, provided homeowners are willing to use a little imagination — and some elbow grease. "You can then look at the pieces that remain and think to yourself: 'OK, maybe I can use that table in that room. Maybe a lick of paint can transform that into something else,'" McAllister said.

5. Incorporate natural elements

"We've used birch bark that we've found lying on the forest floor. (When) framed, it looks gorgeous," said Ryan. "We've found old pieces of timber lying in the water, like driftwood, that we've brought in that we've mounted on casters. Hey, presto! An instant coffee table."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Justin Ryan (left) and Colin McAllister star in Cabin Pressure. CONTRIBUTED

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POOLE CREEK VILLAGE HAS OPTIONS

Kanata continues to be one of the fastest-growing areas in the National Capital region and one of its most desirable neighbourhoods offers homebuyers a number of unique, affordable and stylish options.

Poole Creek Village will be home to 450 families when it's complete. An elementary school will soon be built in the neighbourhood, as will a full-sized community park, including play structures for the kids and lots of green space.

Twenty-five different homes are available in this neighbourhood, including single family homes, bungalows, and spacious semi-detached.

LOTS OF SAVINGS

Tartan Homes at Poole Creek Village features Energy Star® qualified, two- and three- storey single family homes and bungalows on 38-foot and 45-foot wide lots, as well as popular, semi-detached homes.

Single homes start from \$466,900, bungalows start from \$437,900 and semi-

detached homes start from \$353,900.

For a limited time, homebuyers can take advantage of \$20,000 in savings for pre-construction homes, including a \$10,000 signing bonus and \$10,000 in upgrades.

Poole Creek Village is located at Maple Grove, near Huntmar Drive. Four professionally decorated model homes are open for viewing.

Poole Creek's location is central to all of the amenities available in both Kanata and Stittsville — grocery stores, restaurants and

great shopping, including the new Tanger Outlet Mall, are all just minutes away from the doorstep.

Green spaces, like Walter Baker Park and the Trans Canada Trail, offer a variety of sporting activities for all seasons and, just steps away from the community is the Canadian Tire Centre, the home of the Ottawa Senators and the venue of a number of high-profile concerts and events year-round. Just around the corner is the Ron Maslin Playhouse, where you can catch a performance by local actors.

Access to the 417, both east and west, is just a few minutes away, making commuting in either direction a breeze. OC Transpo Bus also services the area and there are two convenient Park n' Ride locations nearby.

Last call for JAVA condos

Whether you are a first-time homebuyer or downsizing after the kids move out, the beautiful and unique JAVA condominium flats are a great choice for low-maintenance, luxury living. No matter how you take yours, JAVA offers the best in worry-free living.

JAVA condominium flats are stylish, affordable, energy efficient and maintenance-free.

They are uniquely designed for modern living and entertaining, with a variety of sizes and styles to choose from, including a terrace, mezzanine or loft suite. Then, select from a range of open-concept floor plans.

JAVA condo flats include a private entrance, open designs with nine-foot

ceilings, a balcony or terrace, central air conditioning, in-suite laundry, six appliances, and one parking spot.

The last remaining block of JAVA condo flats, located in the desirable neighbourhood of Findlay Creek, will be the final block released, so, if you're looking to call one of these stylish homes your own, you have to act fast.

Findlay Creek Village is a family-friendly community, located just off Bank Street, south of Leirtrim Road, in an area that is close to everything but away from it all. Findlay Creek Village features Tartan's single-family homes, bungalows, semi-detached homes and JAVA Condominiums.

Already home to hundreds of families, with plenty of room for more, Findlay Creek Village features wide streetscapes, large lots, lots of park space and two new, future elementary schools, completely surrounded by nature, yet just a five minute drive south of Hunt Club on Bank Street.



CONTRIBUTED

INCENTIVES AVAILABLE

JAVA Condominiums at Findlay Creek are on sale, starting at just \$199,900 and there are a number of extra incentives for buyers who act fast.

Fourteen early occupancy units are currently available. For a limited time, get over \$10,000 in savings, including \$5,000 off the purchase price on any JAVA condo and \$5,000 in free upgrades, plus no condo fees for a year.

JAVA at Findlay Creek is located off Albion Road, just north of Rideau Carleton Raceway. View the soon-to-be-opened, newly decorated model, the Cappuccino, starting Sunday, March 29. Regular hours are Monday through Thursday from 1 to 8 p.m. and weekends and holidays from 12 to 5 p.m. The model and sales centre (600 Willowmere Way) are closed on Fridays.

If you want to learn about how they are constructed, visit tartanhomes.com/java.

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Ready soon homes a great opportunity

The Monarch Make Your Move Event is on.

You can buy a Monarch ready-soon home and move into it this May. Ready soon homes are priced to sell and come with loads of extras. There are ready soon homes in every Monarch community in the Ottawa area, including Blackstone in Kanata, and Longfields and Stonebridge in Nepean.

At Longfields in Nepean, you can buy with just \$5,000 down. The 2,147 square foot Somerset A, for \$356,990 for example, is a gorgeous semi-detached home with hardwood on main level, air conditioning and four stainless steel appliances.

Imagine living in Ottawa's award-winning golf course community. At Stonebridge in Nepean, you can buy a ready soon single such as the Cavalli C which offers 2,700 spacious square feet and five bedrooms for only \$513,990. This beautiful home includes lots of extras like hardwood on the main level and stunning oak stairs. Plus, granite kitchen countertops, extended height upper cabinetry, upgraded floor tiles and pots and pans drawers make the gourmet kitchen complete.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

You can save up to \$15,000 on select homes at Blackstone in Kanata. There are many ready soon homes at Blackstone to choose from such as the Galileo End Unit town for just \$314,990.

This impressive executive two-storey townhome is finished exquisitely with hardwood on the main level, air conditioning, upgraded designer floor tiles and backsplash in kitchen.



VISIT A SALES CENTRE

Visit monarchgroup.net for information on other ready soon homes. Or visit and call:

Longfields Sales Centre and Designer Decorated Models
280 Longfields Dr., Nepean
613-569-5313

Blackstone Sales Centre and Designer Decorated Models
110 Westphalian Ave., Kanata
613-831-2619

Stonebridge Sales Centre and Designer Decorated Models
610 Kilbirnie Dr., Nepean
613-692-9284

Monarch offers a co-broke program that encourages brokers to participate in Monarch's Make Your Move event. Brokers are asked to contact sales at each site for more information.

Monarch's Make Your Move Event!

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CONTRIBUTED IMAGES

Sophisticated living in the heart of downtown

The Bowery has top amenities at the best price

Nothing beats location, and Richcraft has a brand new location for urban professionals, retirees, and anyone looking to be in the heart of the downtown core: The Bowery Condominium and Lofts, in Centretown, one of Ottawa's trendiest neighbourhoods.

This contemporary 18-storey building is now under construction, with an expected occupancy in fall 2016. It's inspired by the post-industrial revivalist architecture of New York's Bowery Street, back when it was lined with grand theatres, soaring banks, and fashionable shops.

"Old and new textures and materials can coexist to mutual benefit," says lead architect Rod Lahey, who wove a sleek stone exterior, polished plate glass, anodized curtain wall framing and stainless steel into the evocative design.

The rooftop amenities will be some of the city's best, with a view across the city and a spectacular pool and lounge. Residents can host guests on the lounging deck, which is equipped with barbecues.

A rooftop party room is ideal for entertaining large groups or intimate get-togethers, with a catering kitchen and bar, private dining area and stunning view. A state-of-the-art fitness centre and yoga/pilates room lets residents stay in shape.

The suites boast natural light and contemporary design, while the neighbourhood offers a downtown vibe and intimate, historic atmosphere. Located near Bank Street, the Ottawa River and some of the city's best shopping and dining, the Bowery may soon be one of Ottawa's hip-



VIEWING INFORMATION

Presentation gallery
136 Bank St., Unit D36

Bowery site
255 Bay St.

Hours of operation
Mon - Thurs: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Fridays: Closed
Sat, Sun: 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Contact
613-695-7577; bowery@richcraft.com;
thebowerycondos.ca

pest new addresses. It will also offer quick and easy access to a new light-rail transit (LRT) station, making the rest of the city a quick ride away.

This new landmark is the creation of Richcraft, known for quality construction and materials, excellent customer care and Energy Star savings. Homes start at only \$178,000. That's as low as \$1,000 a month — less than the cost of rent downtown. Call or visit the presentation centre for more information.

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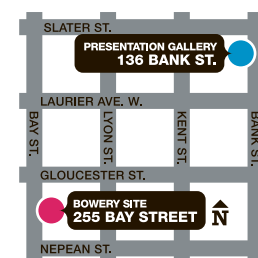
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Perplexing warning

Economists are confident that our lending systems are strong

Brent Jolly
For Metro

Although the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recently sounded warning bells regarding the Canadian housing market, economists believe its concerns are being overplayed and should have little bearing on Canadian homebuyers and owners.

Earlier this month, the IMF released a research note that expressed unease with recent policy changes made by the federal government to help tighten mortgage lending rules and financial oversight.

"I find it perplexing," said Sherry Cooper, chief economist with Dominion Lending Centres (DLC).

"Without question, Canada has a stronger regulatory system (post-2008 financial crisis)

than in any country in the world. If it isn't broke then why should we fix it?"

In its note, the IMF said Canada should consider consolidating its oversight of the financial system into a single body in order to "strengthen accountability and reinforce policy-makers' ability to identify and respond to future potential crises."

Currently, the regulation of Canada's system is overseen by a combination of different bodies, which include the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI), the Department of Finance, and the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation (CDIC).

Benjamin Reitzes, a senior economist and vice-president of economic research with BMO Capital Markets, is not convinced by the IMF's call for



Canadian economists believe the International Monetary Fund's concerns are being overplayed and should have little bearing on homebuyers and owners. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

reform. Like Cooper, Reitzes said Canadian lending standards are strong and there is a high threshold for consumers

to cross before being approved for a mortgage.

Dovetailing their anxiety about Canada's regula-

tory environment, the IMF has reiterated its concern regarding Canadians' high levels of household debt, which

“

The net worth and the debt-to-asset levels of Canadians are very strong right now.

Peter Norman, chief economist with Altus Group

currently sits at about \$1.63 against every \$1 of income earned.

On the surface, this comparison creates a "visceral" reaction, said Peter Norman, chief economist with Altus Group, but it should not cause Canadians to lose much sleep. This is because the IMF's calculation does not include household assets, he said.

"The net worth and the debt-to-asset levels of Canadians are very strong right now," Norman said.

This research note marks the second time in three months that the IMF has shone its spotlight on the issue of housing in Canada. In January, the organization issued a report that warned the Canadian real estate market could be overheated by anywhere from seven to 20 per cent, a claim that has been disputed by many industry experts.



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Get a head start with your plans

Peter McKinnon
For Metro

For those who have had more than their fair share of winter fun, spring is the ideal time to plan. By starting early on those summer jobs — such as renovation or gardening projects — you will avoid the trap of “failing to plan means planning to fail.”

UNDERSTAND PRIORITIES

According to the Canadian Home Builders' Association, one of the most common mistakes homeowners make when it comes to renovation projects is ignoring their long-term plans, such as how long they intend to stay in the home and how their family will change over the next five to 10 years. Make a list of the changes you expect in your life and then determine what projects can best accommodate those changes. There is little sense in investing in that man cave if you expect to have children in a few years, for instance.

ESTABLISH GOALS

Know exactly what you want



By starting early on summer jobs — such as gardening — you will avoid the trap of “failing to plan means planning to fail.” SHUTTERSTOCK

the project to achieve. Is it more storage space in the kitchen? A teenager's bedroom in the basement? If you think of the project in terms of the problems you hope to solve — and

explain it to others that way — you are more likely to come up with an appropriate solution.

THINK GREEN

Canadian summers are short

enough as it is — by getting a jump on outdoor projects, you will have that much more time to enjoy time in the yard. Visit your local hardware store for help planning that new deck

or fence. Make a list of what you would like to plant in the garden — perhaps start a few seeds indoors. When the nice weather finally comes, be ready to make the most of it.

+ MAPLE TREATS

There are many opportunities to indulge in maple treats. Maple Sugar Fest runs through March 29 at Richelieu Park in Vanier. Other options include Fulton's in Pakenham and Stanley's in Edwards. Next weekend, head to the national museums of history or agriculture (the farm) for Easter egg hunts. The Tulip festival runs May 8-18, and the children's festival runs May 9-14.

CONSULT CONTRACTORS

If you wait until May or June, many contractors will be too busy to give you a quote, let alone do the job. Suddenly, that project you wanted done in the summer is put off until September or later. A good contractor will also be willing to discuss what projects might need to be done over the next five to 10 years. Be prepared to make trade-offs between short-term improvements and those projects needed to keep your home in good shape over the long haul.

Between sunrise, sunset

In Christian lands, spring was long known simply as Lent — the time before Easter devoted to sacrifices such as fasting. Starting in the 1500s, writers began to use the word “springing time” to describe plants emerging from the soil. By the 1700s, this had been shortened to “spring.”

Spring is linked to an astronomical event; it begins when there are exactly 12 hours between sunrise and sunset. The technical term is “vernal equinox.” Word nerds might like to know that equinox is from a Latin word meaning “equality between day and night.”

Many ancient cultures celebrated astronomical events such as the vernal equinox. The ancient Egyptians, for instance, positioned the Great Sphinx to face directly into the rising sun on the morning of the vernal equinox.

PETER MCKINNON/FOR METRO




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FIGURE SKATING

Canadian pair in front in Shanghai

Canadians Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford skated a flawless short program to take a commanding lead in the pairs at the world figure skating championships on the opening day Wednesday in Shanghai.

Duhamel, from Lively, Ont., and Radford, from Balmertown, Ont., undefeated in five international competitions this season, scored 76.98 points to take a four-point lead over Chinese veterans Pang Qing and Tong Jian, who came out of retirement to compete on home ice in their 16th world championships.

Another Chinese pair, Sui Wenjing and Han Cong, were third.

In ice dancing, Madison Chock and Evan Bates will attempt to become just the second American duo to win a world title after taking the lead in the short dance.

Kaitlyn Weaver and Andrew Poje of Waterloo, Ont., were second, and defending world

“It brings us back to the familiar feeling of everyday at training

Meagan Duhamel on skating to music by Ginette Reno

champions Anna Cappellini and Luca Lanotte of Italy were third.

Duhamel said she and Radford chose to skate to a song by the French-Canadian singer Ginette Reno because of the luck Reno brought the Montreal Canadiens in the NHL playoffs last year. Reno sang the national anthem before every home game, spurring the Canadiens to victory in the first two rounds. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Eric Radford and Meagan Duhamel in Shanghai on Wednesday.

JOHANNES EISELE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

≡

IN BRIEF

McDonald takes over Quinn's post at HHOF

Lanny McDonald has been a member of the Hockey Hall of Fame since 1992. Now he's in charge of it.

McDonald was named chairman of the board of the Hockey Hall of Fame on Wednesday, succeeding the late Pat Quinn. Although he had a storied playing career, culminating in a Stanley Cup with the Calgary Flames in 1989, McDonald is still anxious.

"I'd be lying if I didn't say I was a little nervous," McDonald said Wednesday in the Hall of Fame's Great Hall in Toronto.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prosecutors to rest soon in Hernandez murder case

The judge overseeing the murder trial of Aaron Hernandez said Wednesday that prosecutors are about a week away from resting their case against the former New England Patriots star.

Testimony in the case began Jan. 29. Hernandez is accused in the June 2013 killing of Odin Lloyd, who was dating the sister of Hernandez's fiancée.

There was no testimony Wednesday, and Superior Court Judge Susan Garsh instead heard from prosecutors and Hernandez's lawyers about pending issues in the case. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Senators have gone 26-13-6 since Dave Cameron took over as coach on Dec. 8.

JANA CHYTILOVA/FREESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY/GETTY IMAGES

Don't let 'Hamburglar' steal all the spotlight

NHL

Goalie's been great, but not the only Sens feel-good story

There's no denying Andrew Hammond has been instrumental to the Ottawa Senators' surge in the standings this past month. His

7G, 17A

Erik Karlsson, pictured, has been the NHL points leader with 24 (7G, 17A) since Feb. 10, when the Senators were 14 points out of the playoffs. Mark Stone is eighth (6G, 16A) and Kyle Turris 11th (11G, 10A).

“

He understands the young guy role

Senators forward Bobby Ryan on coach Dave Cameron

”

ity to develop.

"I think he's been a good influence on them, whether it was just the 10 minutes extra that they were doing at the end of practice or working with them on their confidence in that regard, but he's been influential with them for sure."

As hard as they've worked to get into the top eight, the Senators know they can ill afford any complacency through their final 10 games.

"At the end of the day, we're battling for our lives out here for the eighth spot," said Cameron. "I think the fact that we grabbed it now, but there's other teams around us. There's other good teams still in the hunt and we've got some real good teams we have to beat to keep this thing going." THE CANADIAN PRESS

supporting cast can't be overlooked either.

Ottawa has gone 15-1-1 since Hammond took over the Senators net on Feb. 18, moving into the second and final wildcard playoff spot in the Eastern Conference on Monday.

Over that course the 27-year-old rookie has gone 14-0-1 in his first 15 NHL starts. A point Thursday would tie Patrick Lalime's record for longest start to a career without a regulation loss. Lalime, who was on hand for Ottawa's practice Wednesday, was 14-0-2 with Pittsburgh in 1996-97.

"I'm not really paying too much attention to what records are going on," said Hammond. "I'm just most proud that we've been able to get back in the playoffs and that's something that I think a lot of people counted us out and for us to kind of show the character that we did to take these long steps back is something the whole team can be proud of."

Defensively the Senators have improved overall, due in great part to Hammond. Through the past 21 games Ottawa has allowed 46 goals, whereas in its

previous 20 it had given up 58.

"You couldn't ask for better production, with all the young defence we have," said defenceman Marc Methot. "With assistant captain Chris Phillips out, we have an extremely young defence corps. The guys are contributing, with all the responsibility they have."

Just as notable has been the play of Mark Stone, Mika Zibanejad, Erik Karlsson and Kyle Turris to name a few.

In addition, the Senators have received significant contributions from the line of Zibanejad, Bobby Ryan and Mike Hoffman who have combined for 18 goals and 32 assists.

Just as important has been the energy supplied by the line of Erik Condra, Jean-Gabriel Pageau and Curtis Lazar. Senators head coach Dave Cameron has said the trio has been invaluable to the team's success.

Cameron's contributions can't be overlooked either. Cameron has a 26-13-6 record since taking over as head coach Dec. 8. Players will tell you he's brought enthusiasm, a fresh attitude and given younger players opportun-

BASKETBALL

Canadian roster in flux for qualifier

Canada's path to the 2016 Rio Olympics became clearer Wednesday with the draw for the FIBA Americas men's basketball qualifying tournament.

What remains unclear is what Canada's team will look like.

"We still have a lot of work to do as far as figuring out who's going to be available and what the time commitments with their NBA teams or European teams are going to be, how flexible those teams are going to be in letting us use those players for this event," Canada's coach Jay Triano said on a conference call. "And for the Pan American Games, for that matter."

Canada was drawn Wednesday in Group B with Argentina, Puerto Rico, Venezuela and Cuba for the FIBA Americas Olympic qualifying tournament, Aug. 25 to Sept. 6 in Monterrey, Mexico.

Triano said he has about 30 players in the national team mix, and could see a variety of players spread between the Pan American Games, July 10 to 26 in Toronto, and the FIBA Americas tournament.

The Pan Am Games conflict with the NBA summer league, and young players such as Andrew Wiggins, Nik Stauskas and Tyler Ennis could be required to play there rather than Toronto.

The Canadian men are gunning for their first Olympic berth since the 2000 Games in Sydney. A top-two finish in Mexico will clinch them an Olympic spot. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Andrew Wiggins could be a key player for Team Canada.
ROB CARR/GETTY IMAGES

Canada eyes hosting gig for 2026 men's World Cup

SOCCER

U.S. was last CONCACAF country to host tourney, in 1994

Canada will still be thinking World Cup once the women's showcase tournament ends July 5. The Canadian Soccer Association will then turn its attention to the 2026 men's World Cup.

The CSA has already gone on the record in declaring its

interest in hosting the men's event, which last took place in CONCACAF, which covers North and Central America and the Caribbean, in 1994 in the U.S.

FIFA's executive committee has now gotten the ball rolling. The first set of documents asking for declarations of interest will go to the 209 member associations likely in June with a decision on the host country planned for the FIFA Congress in May 2017.

Is it Canada's turn?

"Our focus is on the women's World Cup and executing that



I don't think, when push comes to shove, that finding eight venues is going to be a challenge.

CSA president Victor Montagliani

because, if we don't execute that, it's not going to be a good segue into us looking to bid for 2026," CSA president Victor Montagliani said in an interview Wednesday. "Once the women's World Cup is over then we'll start looking at 2026 and seeing what we need to do to put together a bid."

Preliminary discussion with various stakeholders have al-

ready taken place.

"Obviously there is interest there," Montagliani said.

Montagliani notes that Canada is the only G-8 nation not to host the World Cup. Come this summer, Canada will have hosted every CONCACAF championship and every FIFA event except for the world futsal, beach and club championships and Confedera-

tions Cup.

Should Canada throw its hat in the ring, it will be a solo rather than joint bid, he said.

In the past, host countries have used eight to 10 stadiums although Canada has taken note of 2022 host Qatar's plan to use just eight.

"I think eight's probably a good number," said Montagliani.

This summer's women's World Cup is being staged in six Canadian cities — Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Montreal, Ottawa and Moncton.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



SOCCER GERMANY, AUSTRALIA PLAY TO A DRAW Australia's Jason Davidson knocks down the ball as Germany's Karim Bellarabi applies pressure during a friendly soccer match in Kaiserslautern, Germany, on Wednesday. Germany substitute Lukas Podolski scored in the 81st minute to salvage a 2-2 draw for the World Cup holders. Joachim Loew's side has won only three of seven games since winning the World Cup last July. DANIEL ROLAND/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

LAWSUIT

Sterling's wife seeks \$3.6M from mistress

Recordings that cost Donald Sterling ownership of the Los Angeles Clippers could cost the woman he was dating the fortune he lavished on her in gifts.

A lawyer for Sterling's estranged wife played snippets of conversations recorded by V. Stiviano as he laid out his case Wednesday on why she should return more than \$3.6 million the billionaire gave her in gifts that included a duplex, a Ferrari, jewelry and designer clothes.

Attorney Pierce O'Donnell said in Los Angeles Superior Court that Stiviano manipulated and deceived the 80-year-old to give away community property that also belonged to Shelly Sterling, his wife of 60 years.

As both women looked on in court, defence lawyer Mac Nehoray said Donald Sterling gave the gifts when he was separated from his wife.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Metta World Peace moving to Italian league

Former NBA all-star Metta World Peace has signed with Italian team Pallacanestro Cantu for the remainder of the season.

Cantu confirmed the news, calling it "the coup of the century."

World Peace, who changed his name from Ron Artest, was playing for the Sichuan Blue Whales in the Chinese Basketball Association after a long NBA career. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Warriors want more than division title

One goal down, still more to go.

That's the message the Golden State Warriors are giving after winning the Pacific Division for the first time in 39 years. Now they're trying to secure the Western Conference's No. 1 seed and homecourt advantage throughout the playoffs for the first time since the defending champion Warriors did it in the 1975-76 season.

"We all know the main goal, but baby steps," forward Dray-

59

The Warriors' franchise record for wins in a season is 59. The current team (58-13) has 11 regular-season games left.

mond Green said. "You have to reach certain milestones to get to the main goal, and this is one of them." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RECIPE Mid-East Chickpea Salad

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com

@rosereisman



Ready in

Prep time: 15

Bake time: 5

This is a great and flavourful vegetarian dish. Chickpeas are loaded with protein and fibre and can reduce bad cholesterol, as well as help to keep your weight in control.

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 425 F. Cut the pita into four wedges, then slice horizontally to make eight wedges. Spray pita wedges with vegetable oil. Sprinkle with chili powder, salt and pepper. Place on a baking sheet and bake for 5 minutes, or just until lightly browned and crisp.

2. In a small bowl, mix mayonnaise, yogurt, sesame oil, soy sauce and tahini until smooth. Add a little water if too thick. Set aside.

3. On serving platter add chickpeas, tomatoes, cucumber, green onions, cilantro, tahini dressing, salt and pepper. Mix well and serve with pita crisps.

Ingredients

- 1 large whole wheat pita pocket
- 1/8th tsp chili powder
- Salt and pepper
- 1/3 cup low fat mayonnaise
- 3 tbsp low fat yogurt



- 4 tsp sesame oil
- 4 tsp soy sauce
- 1 tbsp tahini sauce
- 1 (15 oz) can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 2 cups cubed plum tomatoes, seeded
- 2 cups cubed English cucumber, skin on
- 2 green onions, chopped
- 1/3 cup chopped cilantro or mint

Nutrition per serving

- Calories 370
- Protein 12.9 g
- Carbohydrates 59.4 g
- Fibre 6.8 g
- Total fat 10.9 g
- Saturated fat 1.6 g
- Cholesterol 2.6 mg
- Sodium 724 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

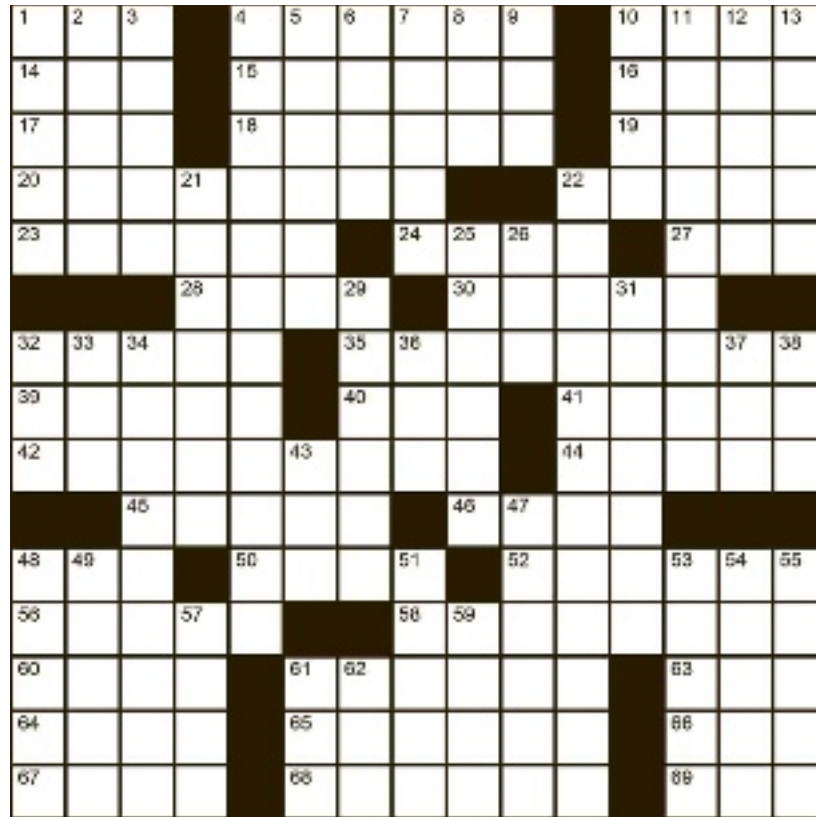
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BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

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ACROSS

- Singer, ___ Sure!
- Trapped
- Concert blasters
- Spring mo.
- Time on the job
- Taste: French
- Scissor Sisters singer Ms. Matronic
- Canadian actress Ms. De Carlo
- ___ of Man
- Rotating part of the cutting-a-human-in-half magic trick: 2 wds.
- Leg part
- Stored, as farm fodder
- Shoreline surface sometimes
- Naja Haje
- Ms. Thurman's
- Countertop
- Trendy spot in Calgary, ___ Loop
- Enormity
- Monastery boss
- 'Social' suffix
- Actor Alan
- Person of North America, e.g.: acr. + wd.
- Danish physicist Mr. Bohr (b.1885 - d.1962)
- ___ de menthe
- 'Ac-Cent-___-Ate the Positive'
- He said/___ said
- Pink: Spanish
- Lobster: French



- Pub orders
- Dart-thrower's target
- Guess Who's "Hang ___ Your Life"
- Media giant that owns Paramount Pictures
- Lass
- Shrek's spe-

cies

- Playing loudly, as music
- Magician's name suffix
- Shortage
- Orchestra instruments
- Web feed syst. for updates

DOWN

- Collect
- Hawaiian-style veranda
- Messy fight
- ___ with Jeanne Beker", new on The Shopping Channel
- Reno's state
- Give ___ (Show approval)
- Old alphabet-ic symbols
- 'East' suffix
- Mr. Brun, cocktail expert on CBC's "Steven and Chris"
- Opposin'
- Jess ___ (Country songstress from Saskatchewan)
- Removes
- Very vertical

- Glassy spot in Lady Gaga's "Born This Way"
- Actor who stars as police officer Nick Barron on Bravo's "19-2": 2 wds.
- Montreal 'money'
- Religious job
- Poses, Tyra Banks style
- Glass-roofed building lobbies
- Egyptian ___ (Cat breed)
- Crunched muscles, for short
- ___ (Corner of Wellington/Simcoe office tower in Toronto)
- Dined
- "Rugrats" character
- NnNnn
- Texter's point-of-view
- Prefix meaning 'Green'
- Soup-eater's need
- Door part
- Have ___ (Enjoy!)
- Norse sea god
- Gosling and Reynolds
- Eateries, e.g.
- Square-___ as some shoes
- Golden State sch. with a Berkeley campus
- Central-___
- "May ___ excused?" (Supper table request)

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You will receive the kind of news that that could make you money. The only problem is you don't seem to realize how good it is or how lucrative it could be. Open your eyes.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
It is all coming right for you and over the next few days you will benefit in ways you cannot yet imagine. With Venus, your ruler, moving through your birth sign you can't possibly lose, in love or in luck.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Anyone who thinks you are superficial does not know you very well at all. Over the next few days you will be looking for answers to some of life's really big questions.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
This is a good day to chat with friends and plan social outings. But don't take up too many invitations between now and the weekend. You won't be popular if you have to cancel some of them.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You are going to be thinking a lot about your work and your reputation over the next few days. But don't make any big decisions concerning your career because even better options will reveal themselves early next week.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If someone says you should not be concerned about what is going on in your social circle you will go out of your way to find out more. What you discover will astound you.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You have been worrying about your money situation for no good reason and over the next few days you will see solutions where before you saw only problems.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You are conflicted whether to get involved in a feud that is not any of your business but which you know you could resolve if people would listen. Go on, take a chance.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
This is a good time to think of ways to reduce your daily chores and also to improve your health. You may not be able to make any major changes for two or three weeks but make plans now.

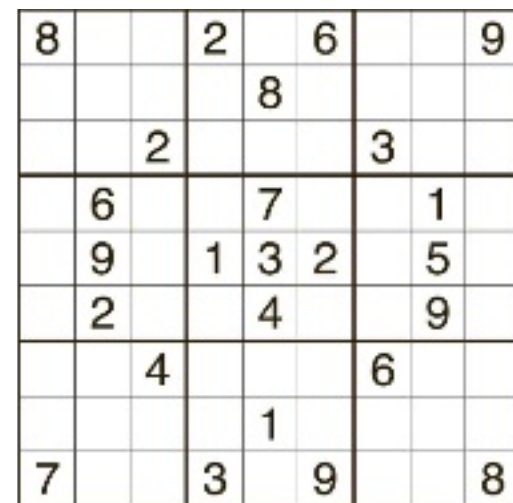
Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Your confidence is improving and it won't be long before your positive attitude brings positive results. People will sense your self-assurance and want to do things for you.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may like to pretend that you are self-sufficient and don't need assistance but you need to be honest with yourself today. If you don't get help with what is bothering you it will get worse.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You will find it much easier now to express yourself and others will find it easier to understand what you are trying to say. The words will flow.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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